FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-240
Thursday
16 December 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-240 CONTENTS *16 December 1993*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Transfer of Authority Talks Resume in al-'Arish *[MENA]* 1
Economic Development Committee Approves Projects *[MENA]* 1
Beilin on Tokyo Multilateral Talks Breakthrough *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Differences With Israel, Refugees *[London MBC TV]* 1
'Arafat on Israel's Failure to Withdraw *[London TV]* 6
Sha'th Views Gaza-Jericho Accord, Future *[AL-SHURUQ 9-15 Dec]* 7
Official Comments on Control of Border Crossings *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Dec]* 8
'Abd-al-Shafi: Delay Affects 'Arafat Credibility *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Dec]* 9
People's Party Criticizes Implementation Delay *[AL-QUDS 15 Dec]* 10
Islamic Jihad Threatens Gaza Military Chief *[AFP]* 10
10 Palestinian Factions Meet, Issue Statement *[Al-Quds Radio]* 11
'Zionist' Landing Operation Reported *[Al-Quds Radio]* 11
Israel To Allow Return of 50 Long-Time Deportees *[AL-QUDS 15 Dec]* 11
197 Palestinian Deportees Leave Lebanon *[Beirut Radio]* 11
Zummarayya Crossing Point Reopens *[Beirut Radio]* 11

OPEC Affairs

'No Problem' Seen With Iraq's Return to Market *[AFP]* 12

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Malek: Killings of Foreigners 'Unforgivable' *[Algiers TV]* 13
    GIA Claims Responsibility; 8 Escape *[AFP]* 13
Paper Urges Closure of Moroccan Border *[Paris International]* 14
FFS Leaders Urge Political Solution to Crisis *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Ettahadi Leader Criticizes Dialogue Commission *[Algiers Radio]* 15
    Further on Leader's Comments *[Algiers TV]* 15
Guidance Society Urges Release of Leader *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Security Forces Kill 3, Arrest 20 Around Country *[Algiers Radio]* 15

Egypt

Prime Minister, Delegation Leave for Damascus *[MENA]* 16
Sha'th Meets With Musa, Views Peace Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 16
'Arafat's Proposal on Crossing Points Backed *[MENA]* 16
Announcement of Clinton-al-Asad Meeting Praised *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 12 Dec]* 16
Disappearance of Former Libyan Official Noted 17
    Human Rights Group Expresses Concern *[KUNA]* 17
    Arab Lawyers Voice Concern *[MENA]* 17
Economic Sanctions on South Africa Lifted *[MENA]* 17
Foreign States Implicated in Aiding Terrorists 17
    Arab Capital Implicated in Attack on Sidqi *[AL-AHALI 8 Dec]* 17

    Editorial Alleges 'Foreign Role' *[AL-AHRAM 11 Dec]* 18
    'Terrorists' in Yemen, Europe Noted *[AL-AHRAM 11 Dec]* 18
    Security Delegation To Visit Yemen *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Dec]* 18
Security Officials Arrest Suspect Abroad *[IRNA]* 19
Three 'Terrorists' Hanged 16 Dec *[MENA]* 19

Mauritania

Taya Holds Talks With French President, Others *[Nouakchott Radio]* 19

Morocco

Congolese Leader Praises King, Ends Visit *[Rabat TV]* 20
Restructuring Urged Before Entering Markets *[MAP]* 20

Sudan

Al-Bashir: U.S. 'Leading' Action Against Sudan *[AL-DUSTUR 15 Dec]* 20
    Al-Bashir on Human Rights *[Omdurman Radio]* 21
Commentary on International Support for Rebels *[Omdurman Radio]* 22
TNC Chairman Denies U.S. Charges of Terrorism *[AL-SAFIR 7 Jan]* 22
Foreign Minister Meets With UN Envoy *[Omdurman Radio]* 23
TNA Amends Measures on Foreign Currency Dealing *[SUNA]* 23
High Council Raises Basic Salary, Sugar Prices *[Omdurman Radio]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

'Shaykh 'Isa Delivers National Day Address *[WAKH]* 24
Amir Pardons 64 Exiled Nationals *[WAKH]* 24
Foreign Minister Views UN Resolution on Iran *[IRNA]* 24

Kuwait

Iraqis Evacuated From Areas Near Border *[Kuwait TV]* 25

Yemen

Ex-Yemeni President's Nephew Killed in Syria *[AFP]* 25
Al-Bid Confers With U.S., Eritrean Ambassadors *[Sanaa Radio]* 25
Salih Receives PLO's 'Abbas Zaki, 'Arafat Note *[Sanaa Radio]* 25
Reform Grouping's al-Zanadani on Ties With YSP *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Dec]* 26

IRAQ

Tehran Radio Reports 120 Officers Executed 27
MKO Statement Blames Iran for RPG Attack on Bus *[AFP]* 27
'Clarification' on Situation in al-Sulaymaniyah *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 27
Opposition Leaders on Differences, Weaknesses *[London AL-WASAT 13 Dec]* 28
'Aziz Receives Mauritanian Party Delegation *[Baghdad Radio]* 29

ISRAEL

Rabin Said Concerned About 'Arafat's Condition *[Jerusalem New Channel TV]* 30
    Dismisses Reports on 'Arafat's Health *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Rabin Calls on PLO to 'Reconsider' Positions *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Sources: No 'Arafat Meeting if Demands Remain *[HA'ARETZ 16 Dec]* 31
Report on Rabin Message to al-Asad Denied *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Rabin: Jordan Valley Is Border Defense Line *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Coordinator of Activities in Territories Queried *[AL-QUDS 14 Dec]* 31

- Egyptian Envoy Urges Accord's Implementation *[Cairo International]* 32
- Ambassador Rabinovich on Aspin Resignation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
- Vilna'i Views IDF Commander-Hamas Meeting *[HA'ARETZ 15 Dec]* 33
- IDF Pamphlet Details Rules for Handling Settlers *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
- Hay Veqayam Group To Avoid Army Service, Taxes *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 16 Dec]* 34
- IDF Completes Infrastructure Work in Lebanon *[HA'ARETZ 16 Dec]* 34
- Hamas Deportees Return; Minister Ramon Comments *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34

JORDAN

- Envoy Criticizes 'Arafat's Praise of Rabin *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 35
- Abu-Nuwar: PLO Economic Accord 'Did Not Fail' *[Amman Radio]* 35
- Committee To Resist Normalization Planned *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 16 Dec]* 35
- Government on 'Arafat, Christopher Visits *[Amman Radio]* 35
- Released German, Frenchman Arrive From Baghdad *[JORDAN TIMES 16-17 Dec]* 36
- IAF Stages Walkout in 'Heated' House Debate *[JORDAN TIMES 16-17 Dec]* 37
- 'Text' of 1994 Draft Budget Statement Published *[AL-DUSTUR 13 Dec]* 38

LEBANON

- Buwayz Views UN 'Recommendation,' Peace Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 45
- Birri Condemns UN Resolution, Blames Arabs *[VOM]* 45
- Al-Hariri Leaves on Official Visit to Turkey *[VOM]* 46
- Iddih Warns of Peace Talks, Syrian Threat *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Dec]* 46
- Israel Shells al-Litani Basin, Other Areas *[VOL]* 46
- Amal Claims Attack on Israeli-SLA Patrol *[VOM]* 47
- Hizballah Issues Statement on Rushdie *[AL-'AHD 3 Dec]* 47
- Cabinet Approves Rules on TV Transmissions *[VOL]* 47

SYRIA

- Iran's Habibi, Velayati Conclude Meetings 49
  - Joint Committee Discusses Ties *[Damascus Radio]* 49
  - Velayati: Visit 'Very Successful' *[Damascus Radio]* 49
  - Habibi, Khaddam Hold Talks *[IRNA]* 49
  - Habibi Ends Visit, Departs 16 Dec *[Damascus Radio]* 49
- U.S. Congressional Delegation Meets Leaders 50
  - Al-Shar' Confers With Group *[Damascus Radio]* 50
  - Al-Asad Receives Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 50
- Israel Urged To Abandon 'Separate' Deals Policy *[Damascus Radio]* 50

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Acting Premier, Foreign Minister Meet UN Envoy *[Kabul Radio]* 51
- Acting Premier Meets With Islamic Movement *[Kabul Radio]* 51

India

- Opposition Views GATT Accord, Dunkel Proposals *[Delhi Radio]* 51
  - Minister Discusses Dunkel Proposals *[Delhi Radio]* 52
- Commentary Reviews GATT Agreement *[Delhi Radio]* 52
- Pakistan Seen Turning Into 'Favorite' U.S. Ally *[ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA 29 Nov]* 52
- President Sharma Receives Indonesia's Suharto *[Delhi Radio]* 53
  - Suharto, Rao Agree on UNSC Restructure *[Jakarta Radio]* 53
- Rao, Malaysia's Mahathir Meet, Sign 6 Accords *[Delhi Radio]* 54
  - Talks Detailed *[ISI]* 54
- Zimbabwe's Mugabe Seeks Aid for Industry *[Delhi Radio]* 55
- Minister: No Defense Accord Signed With Israel *[Delhi Radio]* 55
- Iranian Official Discusses Economic Ties *[IRNA]* 55

Nuclear Research Reactor Offered to Thailand *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Parties Clash in Uttar Pradesh Assembly *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Home Minister Comments on Kashmir 'Militants' *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Proposal To Swap Education Debts Detailed *[Delhi Radio]* 56

Iran

Tehran Radio Views Aspin's Resignation 56
Commentary Assesses U.S.-Pakistani Relations *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Editorial on CIA Director's Comments *[RESALAT 4 Dec]* 57
Editorial Views Russian Election Results *[IRNA]* 58
Visiting Turkmen Official Urges Expanded Ties *[IRNA]* 58
Processing Plant To Be Set Up in Turkmenistan *[IRNA]* 59
Western, Russian Interests in Caucasus Viewed *[Tehran International]* 59
German Official Meets Besharati, Prosecutor *[IRNA]* 59
    Meets Supreme Court Head *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Government Welcomes Solidarity Day With Bosnia *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Transit Agreement Signed With Turkey *[IRNA]* 60
Iranian Delegate on Results of UNIDO Conference *[IRNA]* 61
President, Minister Clash Over Oil Policy *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Dec]* 61
Khamene'i Addresses Professors, Students *[IRNA]* 62
Central Bank Criticized for 'Unclear' Policy *[IRNA]* 62
Imports Blamed for 'Chaos' in Exchange Market *[IRNA]* 62
Militant Clergy Association Views Economy *[SALAM 2 December]* 63
Campaign Targets 'Decadent' Movies *[AFP]* 63
* Appointments to Various Offices Announced *[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 3 Nov]* 63
    * Appointments Announced 17 Nov *[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 17 Nov]* 64
    * Appointments Announced 1 Dec *[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 1 Dec]* 64

Pakistan

Visiting U.S. Senators Meet Ministers *[Islamabad TV]* 64
    Meet President, Foreign Minister *[Islamabad Radio]* 65
Senate Chairman Criticizes Pressler Amendment *[THE FRONTIER POST 16 Dec]* 65
Papers View Senators' Visit, Pressler Amendment 66
    Editorial Defends Nuclear Program *[NAWA-I-WAQT 15 Dec]* 66
    Editorial Criticizes Amendment *[THE NEWS 15 Dec]* 66
    Editorial Questions U.S. Stance *[THE FRONTIER POST 15 Dec]* 67
    Visit Evaluated *[THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 16 Dec]* 67
Bhutto, UAE President Discuss Afghanistan *[Islamabad TV]* 68
India-Israel 'Collaboration' in Kashmir Outlined *[THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 15 Dec]* 68
Editorial Opposes Sanctions Against Libya *[JANG 11 Dec]* 69
India's RAW Charged With Fomenting 'Insurgency' *[THE NEWS 16 Dec]* 69
Article Views Kashmir Issue, U.S. Role *[DEFENCE JOURNAL Oct-Nov]* 71
Bhutto Attends Conclusion of Army Exercises *[Islamabad TV]* 74

Arab-Israeli Talks

Transfer of Authority Talks Resume in al-'Arish

NC1512144993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1337 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Al-'Arish, 15 Dec (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli committee began meeting in al-'Arish this evening to discuss the transfer of the autonomy powers. Responsible Palestinian sources said that the meetings will continue for two days to discuss transferring the civil powers of autonomy, such as health, water, education, housing, municipal affairs, and other issues, from the Israeli administration to the Palestinian autonomy authority. The Palestinian delegation is headed by lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi and includes Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah representative in Cairo. The Israeli side is headed by General Gadi Zohar.

Economic Development Committee Approves Projects

NC1612101493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—A working group formed by the Middle East Multilateral Talks Economic Development Committee ended its meetings in Cairo today. It approved several projects that will be implemented in cooperation with the EC and Middle Eastern countries.

The Cairo meeting is the first of several planned by the Economic Development Committee during its meeting in Copenhagen on 8 and 9 November. A program called the Copenhagen Work Program was drawn up then.

The agreement reached today provides for four agricultural projects to be implemented with the cooperation of Egypt, the occupied territories, Israel, and Jordan. Agreement was also reached to implement a project involving cleaning up pollution in the Gulf of Aqaba and preserving marine life and coral. This project will be carried out with the help of the gulf's littoral countries. Agreement was also reached to carry out a joint tourism project involving Egypt, Israel, and the occupied territories.

Dr. 'Adil al-Biltaji, chairman of the board of directors of the Egyptian Agricultural Research Center and Egypt's representative at the meeting, told MENA that agreement was reached to establish four networks through which expertise and data will be exchanged with the aim of promoting research in various spheres.

Dr. al-Biltaji explained that the first sphere is connected with natural resources, notably desert plants, and ways of protecting them. He said each regional country will make efforts in one particular sphere and all the resulting information on available natural resources will be exchanged and coordinated. He said this project will be carried out through the joint efforts of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Turkey and in coordination with Italy. He added that the EC will provide financial backing for this $125-million project.

Dr. al-Biltaji said the second project is connected with the effects insecticides have on the soil. The aim is to minimize the use of insecticides and prevent harm to people, plants, and natural resources like water. [passage omitted]

Beilin on Tokyo Multilateral Talks Breakthrough

TA1612090693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The second day of the multilateral peace talks being held in Tokyo is about to conclude. Speaking from Tokyo, Israeli delegation head, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, told reporter Amy Rhodes that two breakthroughs had been made:

[Begin recording] [Beilin] We decided for the first time to have most of the venues for the working groups of the multilateral talks in the Arab world. We are going to have the steering working group meeting in Tunisia; the water group in Oman; the arms control group in Qatar; and the economic group in Morocco. That is one of the achievements of this round. Another achievement is the acceptance of our suggestion that an informal meeting of the heads of the delegations will take place in the coming months in order to deal with the general question of the vision for the Middle East when peace prevails.

[Rhodes] In regards to holding the upcoming talks in the region, is that an indication that these countries may soon establish relations with Israel?

[Beilin] Well, I am not so sure. I think that we are now in a chapter of normalization, and since they are ready to host those meetings and to host, of course, our delegation, that is one step forward. I would not jump to the conclusion that they are already prepared for full diplomatic relationship, although I would not exclude it totally for the future, but not for the very near future. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Differences With Israel, Refugees

NC1512193093 London MBC Television in Arabic 1720 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by MBC Director 'Irfan Nizam-al-Din; place and date not given]

[Text] [Nizam-al-Din] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], let us discuss your current tour and the crisis that we have on our hands. There are many complications. We need frankness from you. What happened after your meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin and what are the facts...?

['Arafat, interrupting] I do not want to discuss the details of this matter so that we do not complicate things even more. But there were differences regarding the interpretation of the agreement. They asked for some time to discuss and investigate things further with each other on this matter. I welcomed this step because I do not want to throttle or bother them. I want to reach an agreement with them. This was done in the presence of Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and under his patronage. I thank him for the efforts he has exerted so far and will exert in the next meetings.

[Nizam-al-Din] Why were no preparations made for this meeting?

['Arafat] Preparations were made. But you remember that we suspended the Taba talks over these issues. However, when Rabin came, you remember Rabin delivered his famous speech when he said: I would have liked to meet with President 'Arafat before this time to discuss with him tete-a-tete [preceding word in French] all these details. Now I will tell you about the details. Let us start with the Jericho issue. Things are clear.

[Nizam-al-Din] [Words indistinct]

['Arafat] That is, the district of Jericho according to the Israeli administration's demarcation is 712 km. According to the definition of the former Jordanian administration, it is 387 km.

[Nizam al-Din] The agreement according to....

['Arafat, interrupting] The agreement says area [preceding word in English]. It does not say the City of Jericho [preceding three words in English]. It says the area of Jericho. The area of Jericho, as in the area of Gaza. Does Gaza mean Gaza City? No.

[Nizam-al-Din] Of course, you are right.

['Arafat] The same situation applies to Jericho.

[Nizam-al-Din] What did the Israelis propose?

['Arafat] They proposed unacceptable things.

[Nizam-al-Din] And there is no....

['Arafat, interrupting] They asked for some time and I welcomed their request.

[Nizam-al-Din] And with regard to the crossing points?

['Arafat] The same story applies there. As far as we are concerned, the agreement is clear. It says in English: Palestinian supervision, international presence, and coordination with Israel [preceding terms in English and 'Arafat provides a translation into Arabic], that is, we coordinate with the Israelis over some issues that are prohibited. This is their right. We are supposed to have a standing Liaison Committee between us and them during the interim period [preceding two words in English]. Matters also got a bit more complicated, but they are still under discussion.

[Nizam-al-Din] As for the topic of withdrawal, or what they call redeployment....

['Arafat, interrupting] No. It is well known that there has to be a withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Of course, we agreed that some of their forces will be present inside the settlements to protect their settlers because they claim that they do not trust the Palestinian security forces. I said fine, but don't you trust the international forces present there? There are supposed to be international forces there.

[Nizam-al-Din] Regarding the Palestinian police, you noted yesterday that they asked you to prepare 20,000 policemen and you can only provide 12,000.

['Arafat] Of course, we have limited resources. I do not need to tell you that everything has been at a standstill on our end.

[Nizam-al-Din] There has been talk about Palestinian preparedness and that the Palestinian authority is not ready to take over and that it has not been formed yet. Why is that?

['Arafat] I cannot form it until the declaration is made on the implementation of the agreement. It is a blessing that I have not formed it. Consider the situation if I had formed it and there was a delay; we would have had a lot of disturbances. There has been a decision on forming the authority and the names are almost ready.

[Nizam-al-Din] They are ready?

['Arafat] Yes, they are ready. This was discussed within the Palestinian leadership.

[Nizam al-Din] Does President Yasir 'Arafat think that the agreement might collapse? And what are the steps...?

['Arafat, interrupting] I do not think it will collapse. This agreement is not an Israeli-Palestinian agreement. This agreement was signed by the cosponsors of the conference. It took place under the patronage and supervision of President Clinton. The whole world watched the agreement being signed. It has become an international agreement, not my or Rabin's property.

[Nizam-al-Din] What is the response if Israel continues to reject the agreement and claims that it will not accept....

['Arafat, interrupting] It is up to the international sides to respond.

[Nizam-al-Din] What is your response as an involved party?

['Arafat] We prefer not to make our response until we see the event.

[Nizam-al-Din] It is often reported that Yasir 'Arafat monopolizes political decisionmaking and avoids consultations?

['Arafat] As the Egyptian saying goes: They saw no blemish in a rose and so said it is red-cheeked. Once, they said that the Palestinians are incapable of running a state. Good God! Another time, they said that the Palestinians are not democratic. Goodness! We are indeed democratic. I am democratic, and I would like to repeat what 'Umar [second caliph] said: May God bless the man who corrects 'Umar's mistakes. This is a point of strength, not weakness, in me.

[Nizam-al-Din] The opponents adopted a certain stance and [words indistinct], such as Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]

['Arafat] Who said that Abu-Mazin is opposed?

[Nizam-al-Din] Certain people said that he is not opposed but that there are differences between you.

['Arafat] Who said so?

[Nizam-al-Din] He called for national unity.

['Arafat] Who said this? It is propaganda. The PLO Executive Committee met the day before yesterday, and Abu-Mazin was present. The Fatah Central Committee also held a meeting, and Abu-Mazin attended. What are you calling strange?

[Nizam-al-Din] I am telling you what is being reported.

['Arafat] These are rumors that are only intended to harm the Palestinian body. A short time ago, someone asked if I could run a state after having been a revolutionary commander. Good God! Why didn't he ask Mugabe, Nkomo, Samora Machel, Ben Bella, or Mandela this question? Why are they only asking 'Arafat this question? This is strange.

[Nizam-al-Din] Maybe some foreigners, not Arabs, are asking you this question.

['Arafat] You should fear God. Let us take care of the Palestinian people and foster the Palestinian newborn.

[Nizam-al-Din] [words indistinct] There is a need for a united Palestinian leadership at present.

['Arafat] The Palestinian leadership, praise be to God, is unified. We respect our democracy and each other's views and have no dictatorship that dictates one view. The view of the majority is held, regardless of whether 'Arafat, Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], [Muhammad] al-Nashashibi, [Jamal] al-Surani, the People's Party, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, or the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine likes it or not. We are united. Even prophets were not supported by the majority. [words indistinct]. I want to ask if the Palestinian arena is divided.

[Nizam al-Din] Of course, there other disunited fronts, but we are asking this question because we care about the Palestinians.

['Arafat] May God bless you. But you should have an overall perspective and look at the positive aspects, not just the negative ones. It is not easy to make news. We are now moving along despite all the historical oppression that has befallen us. We must not forget this.

[Nizam-al-Din] No doubt. I know you are patient. The Palestinian intellectuals, for instance, say that they back Abu-'Ammar but that Abu-'Ammar was not frank with them about the agreement. They say that, after the agreement, he did not meet with them to explain why [words indistinct]

['Arafat] I explained the agreement to these people, but you cannot convince everyone. God guides those whom He wills.

[Nizam-al-Din, interrupting] What about the National Council?

['Arafat] At the same time, I went to Madrid because of a decision from the Palestine National Council and the PLO Central Council. When I approved the agreement, I received a unanimity of votes on the Madrid conference. [as heard] Only 84 percent approved the Madrid conference. In addition, after reaching the agreement, only about 68 percent of the PLO Central Council approved it. This is democracy.

[Nizam-al-Din] No doubt about it. However, current Israeli opinion polls show that support for this agreement is decreasing....

['Arafat, interrupting] Among the Palestinians, it will not decrease. Still, I back the Palestinians in their strong attitude toward this insane escalation being carried out by the armed settlers while the Israeli army stands and watches. Not only this: You know that massacres were perpetrated by the Israeli army against our young men, children, women, and camps. When we raised this issue at the meetings of the negotiating committees, they said it was a mistake. They asked me to condemn Mizrahi's killers. Why don't they condemn the killers of these innocents?

[Nizam-al-Din] Brother Abu-'Ammar, of course I am only reporting what is being said. They said that if Abu-'Ammar issued a statement condemning this daily killing of Palestinians, particularly the killing of Fatah Hawks...

['Arafat, interrupting] May God forgive you; may God forgive you. Did you think that I would fail to issue a statement?

[Nizam-al-Din] I mean after the condemnation of the settler's death.

['Arafat] Who told you that? Can you see the falsehood?

[Nizam-al-Din] We are only reporting what is being said....

['Arafat, interrupting] Reporting what? This is falsehood, man. Who told you we did not issue a statement?

Just two days ago, we issued a strong statement against the massacre that happened in Gaza. Two days ago. Yesterday, I made a statement on the radio, [pauses] by telephone, about the three brothers from Tarqumiyah. I addressed a message to all the people who were assembled in Tarqumiyah. Now do you see how it is?

[Nizam-al-Din] May God bless you. We only report what is being said to give you the chance to respond, brother Abu-'Ammar.

['Arafat] No, really, brother Nizam, there is an attempt to defame me.

[Nizam-al-Din] Doubtless. For this reason, I wanted you to respond.

['Arafat] Thank you, may God bless you. There has been no incident here or there on which we have not made our views known. We are the Palestinian leadership and are in charge of everything.

[Nizam-al-Din] I wish to convey a question that is being asked. What will the fate of the detainees be? Is there an agreement to secure their release?

['Arafat] Let me tell you: They are bargaining with us over the detainees.

[Nizam-al-Din] Bargaining over the numbers?

['Arafat] Over everything. I told them one thing: Withdraw from the territory. We will not bargain over the territory at any price. The detainees back me on this position.

[Nizam-al-Din] Have there been positive signs to release....

['Arafat, interrupting] I am telling you that I will not bargain over the land, or Jerusalem, at any price. During the Beirut siege, we suffered 72,000 martyrs and wounded. The bloodletting, the cascade of blood, has not stopped for one moment.

[Nizam-al-Din] I hope that my questions will not....

['Arafat] No, no.

[Nizam-al-Din] It's because I am carrying a collection of reports about everything that has been said about this issue. For example, there is the question of the fear that a civil war might erupt in Gaza.

['Arafat] Who is afraid?

[Nizam-al-Din] There are fears.

['Arafat] My, my, my. Just as I am telling you. Are they expecting this to happen, or are they hoping it will happen?

[Nizam-al-Din] The enemies hope for it.

['Arafat] And some friends hope for it, too. I do not want to say more. I know this to be true. Regrettably, some Arab newspapers published such talk. Shame on them. I tell them: Shame on you.

[Nizam-al-Din] Doubtlessly....

['Arafat, interrupting] It is disgraceful of them to write in the Arab newspapers about this hope.

[Nizam-al-Din] Anyone who hopes for civil war is an enemy, of course.

['Arafat] Regrettably, some Arab newspapers published this. Let them know that Palestinian democracy and the Palestinian march are too worthy to burn.

[Nizam-al-Din] Another question, brother Abu-'Ammar. The refugees of 1948, what will their fate be?

['Arafat] Brother, I am one of them. I am one of them.

[Nizam-al-Din] They want to be reassured.

['Arafat] The agreement says.... This is also part of the attempt to create a certain confusion over the agreement. I mean, for example, this particular issue. There are two kinds of refugees: displaced [preceding word in English], meaning those who left in 1967. There is a quadripartite Jordanian-Egyptian- Palestinian-Israeli committee that is discussing arrangements for their return within [preceding word in English and 'Arafat provides translation into Arabic] the transitional period and no later than the beginning of the third year of this period. When the Israelis took in half a million Jews from the USSR, they asked for $10 billion in the form of loan guarantees [preceding two words in English] from the United States to finance the operation. I hope we will be able to fulfill this clause. The other point, the other point.... This is what is needed. We do not want Palestine to turn into an empty desert. It is the residents of the land who preserve it. The other point pertains to the 1948 refugees. Their case will be discussed not exceeding the beginning of the third year [preceding eight words in English and 'Arafat provides translation into Arabic].

[Nizam-al-Din] The Palestinians residing in Lebanon and....

['Arafat, interrupts] They are part of the 1948 refugees.

[Nizam-al-Din] There has been talk about their resettlement.

['Arafat] Who would accept another homeland instead of Palestine? Glory to God, Who did take His servant for a journey by night from the Sacred Mosque to the Farthest Mosque whose precincts We did bless. [Koranic verse] Who would abandon this sacred place under any circumstances? Weren't we previously offered resettlement in Sinai and the Arabian Peninsula? I was offered resettlement in south Lebanon. Lebanese leaders—they are still around—offered me south Lebanon. I rejected the offer. We also refused resettlement in Iraq. The Palestinian people have only one homeland.

[Nizam-al-Din] Why don't you respond to the media campaign, which claims that you once stated: I ruled Lebanon.

['Arafat] I never said that I ruled Lebanon. What a shame.

[Nizam-al-Din] This is the clarification that....

['Arafat] Shame, shame. I never said something like this. What I said is in my records. What I said was this: I succeeded in establishing security in areas of south Lebanon where more than 40 Lebanese and Palestinian armed factions operated. As you know, I also protected the UN forces. My friendship with [Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen] Holst goes back to the time when he was defense minister and his country's contingent in the UN forces in the south faced several problems. He used to come and thank me because I succeeded in protecting the UN forces in south Lebanon. This is what I said.

[Nizam-al-Din] Your remarks were distorted.

['Arafat] They were distorted. As I said before: They saw no blemish in the rose and criticized it for being red.

[Nizam-al-Din] Regarding the relationship with Jordan, there has been some talk about disagreements. It has been said that the economic agreement has not been signed. Can you tell us about the results of your visit to that area?

['Arafat] Before anything else, I must reach a full agreement on the Israeli withdrawal. I can think about agreements with my Arab brothers later. Let me first of all tackle my major worry, the burden lying on my nation's heart. I mean withdrawal first.

Therefore, we told our brothers: Let us discuss these issues first, and then we can move on to other matters. We are economically linked—that is, the former West Bank is linked—to our brothers in Jordan. And in Gaza, we are linked to our brothers in Egypt. Therefore, we need to look into these matters carefully. We need to discuss them within the Palestinian leadership. We discussed them with our Jordanian and Egyptian brothers, and we hope to find a solution.

[Nizam-al-Din] Which currency will be in circulation?

['Arafat] Currently, there are four currencies in circulation. There is the Israeli shekel, the Jordanian dinar, the Egyptian pound, and the [U.S.] dollar.

[Nizam-al-Din] When the Palestinian authority takes over....

['Arafat] Say God willing.

[Nizam-al-Din] God willing. Which currency will it be using?

['Arafat] This must be discussed very carefully because it has not been decided yet. This is a matter linked to the economy. I can safely say that it will not be the Israeli shekel.

[Nizam-al-Din] And is it the same with the central bank?

['Arafat] The same thing.

[Nizam-al-Din] You have not yet decided anything with regard to it, have you?

['Arafat] Of course, it is our right. But we have not yet made any decisions about it. God willing, we will declare the establishment of the Palestinian Bank for Development and Construction in the next few days. We have already decided that it will be formed.

[Nizam-al-Din] What do you expect from your meeting with Rabin 10 days from now?

['Arafat] I hope that matters will be resolved very quickly.

[Nizam-al-Din] Does this affect the date of your return, and when will you return to....

['Arafat] In January or February.

[Nizam-al-Din] The date has not changed.

['Arafat] No, it has not.

[Nizam-al-Din] And where will you reside?

['Arafat] Everywhere.

[Nizam-al-Din] In January and February, where will you reside?

['Arafat] In Gaza and Jericho, God willing.

[Nizam-al-Din] What about the leadership in Tunis? Will it stay there?

['Arafat] No, it will not stay there. It will be moved to Jericho.

[Nizam-al-Din] What about the fate of the PLO? Will it be transformed into a government or an authority?

['Arafat] This agreement was signed with whom?

[Nizam-al-Din] Perhaps it will be transformed into a government.

['Arafat] Not just yet, but when the state is formed and the Palestinian state is declared. The agreement is with the PLO. It is between the Government of Israel and the PLO. I am the chairman of the PLO, and the national authority will belong to the PLO's leadership.

[Nizam-al-Din] Are there any thoughts about a government or a prime ministry within this national authority?

['Arafat] God willing, all these details will be discussed, studied, and deliberated within the Palestinian leadership.

'Arafat on Israel's Failure to Withdraw

LD1512121093 London BBC Television Network in English 2230 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Studio interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by correspondent Peter Snow in London on 14 December; from the "Newsnight" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Snow] Mr. 'Arafat, you were saying that yesterday was to be a sacred day, the day that you would have agreement and that the Israeli withdrawal would begin. Are you upset that it has not happened?

['Arafat] No, because as you know I have a very important meeting with Rabin in Cairo, both of us were guests of Mubarak, and we discuss it frankly, obviously, and clearly.

[Snow] But you failed?

['Arafat] No, we don't fail, no. What had happened that we agreed upon to delay the discussion and we have to return back for more clarifications and more negotiations.

[Snow] What do you think the price of failure is if you can't get agreement in these negotiations?

['Arafat] The whole area will pay the price. It will affect everybody in everything, not only in our area, because peace is not only Palestinian need, it is a Palestinian need, Israeli need, Arab need, European need, American need, international need—this is the Middle East.

[Snow] But the critical problem in your negotiations, or one of the most critical appears to be your desire to be able to control a border on the Jordan river. Now the Israelis are making it absolutely clear that it is a matter of vital security to them that they control the border.

['Arafat] If we have to speak about security I have to speak also about my security. Security is two lines, in two directions, not one direction. Nobody has to protect my security also and my border. In spite of that I give flexibility when I said: OK, three patrols, combination of three patrols, international presence, multinational forces patrol, Israeli patrol, and Palestinian patrol, so there is no excuses.

[Snow] But you accept that they will control the bridges, they will control the Jordan, they will never accept your controlling it?

['Arafat] No, no, no, no, it is our dignity. We cannot accept anyone to close the doors at anytime or to open the doors according to his wishes.

[Snow] But you will never get them to agree to that?

['Arafat] It has been mentioned in agreements with Palestinian supervision, international presence, and coordinations with Israel.

[Snow] Even as your negotiations are at the moment in crisis, would you accept that there is a crisis of confidence, Mr.'Arafat, in your leadership?

['Arafat] No, it is also another rumor—big rumors. We have democracy, we have what is called in Arabic [word indistinct], which means more sugar in our democracy.

[Snow] More sugar in your democracy?

['Arafat] Yes, more sugar in our democracy.

[Snow] Your critics—some of whom are very close to you—don't say its a sugary democracy?

['Arafat] Who criticize me?

[Snow] Well, quite a lot of people. I mean for example we have Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi [former chief Palestinian negotiator].

['Arafat] He is not criticizing me.

[Snow] Well, indeed he is. He is saying people are not happy that 'Arafat—we have this in a report tonight on Newsnight—people are not happy that 'Arafat retains single handed decision making. What these people are saying is that you are running a dictatorship.

['Arafat] He wasn't in the last meeting to say that. I am not against what he is saying, it is his point of view. I have to respect what he is saying, nothing more, nothing less. We have a collective leadership and I am following the decision which has been taken and collectively done.

[Snow] Why do you insist on remaining the chairman of the Council for Construction and Development that will control the fund for the (?spend) by the Palestinians. Why do you insist on remaining chairman of that?

['Arafat] I am not chairman, but the acting [chairman].

[Snow] But you are still in charge?

['Arafat] I am in charge according to my capacity. I am the chairman, I am the president of the Palestinian national authority. But the acting chairman is a different thing.

[Snow] But have you delegated to him complete freedom to make decisions?

['Arafat] Yes, complete decision.

[Snow] Because that is an example of the kind of thing that people say—you should allow other Palestinians to take control?

['Arafat] Please, please you are trying to squeeze me. Not to continue squeezing me. This is an attempt to interfere in our interior affairs. I can imagine that you have the right to do so but you have to respect our independence.

Sha'th Views Gaza-Jericho Accord, Future

JN1512150093 Al-Shariqah AL-SHURUQ in Arabic 9-15 Dec 93 pp 19-21

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHURUQ] What do you think of recent reports about the possibility of Fatah turning into a political party?

[Sha'th] Fatah has led the Palestinian struggle and the PLO for a long time. This movement has played the role of a political party and participated in elections for students, pharmacists, lawyers, and other unions. This happened even during the period of armed struggle.

No doubt, Fatah will play the role of a political party in the next stage, just like Hamas and other movements. The PLO could be dissolved after the establishment of a Palestinian state. However, Hamas and Fatah will remain. This does not mean that the PLO does not believe in democracy. When we go back to our land, we will try to practice democracy in the best way possible. If the Palestinian state turns into a suppressive authority, I will be the first to go to prison in protest against this.

I must say that I am happy with the way Hamas has been conducting itself so far. It voices opposition and discusses matters at the same time. It is exactly the same thing with Palestinians. Some of them support and others oppose the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The important thing is that we all agree that democracy should always be our approach and lifestyle.

[AL-SHURUQ] Is it true that the Gaza-Jericho agreement was changed before it was signed?

[Sha'th] Yes. The draft agreement presented by the United States in June had been largely changed by the time it was signed in September. However, the changes were in our favor, because they allowed the Palestinians to set foot on Palestinian land. In the Taba negotiations, agreement will be reached on redeploying Israeli forces in the rest of the occupied territories, that is, Israeli withdrawal from the major cities and villages and population centers within a period that does not exceed nine months after the first withdrawal. Although the agreement stipulates a transitional rule, the relationship is now one between two states: Palestinian and Israeli.

[AL-SHURUQ] Are you optimistic then about the establishment of a Palestinian state?

[Sha'th] Yes, I think that the negotiations will lead to an independent Palestinian state, with eastern Jerusalem as its capital. There is no going back now. We will keep our commitments if they withdraw and the state is established and the refugees return. As for Israel, perhaps it is still dreaming about the economic hegemony this agreement may provide it with.

[AL-SHURUQ] Do you doubt the possibility of this hegemony?

[Sha'th] Israel has established its economy over 45 years on the basis that it is impossible to have trade relations with the Arabs. I think it is difficult to change this all of a sudden. We should understand that they cannot disregard us. If they want to export, then they should import, and if they want to invest with us, then we should also invest in Haifa and Yafo. If they want to restructure their economy, then they have to compete with the rest of the world.

[AL-SHURUQ] What do you think of recent reports that the PLO had no other choice but to sign the Gaza-Jericho agreement because of its severe financial crisis?

[Sha'th] No doubt the crisis was a major reason for Israel's prompt acceptance of a peace agreement. Israel feared the PLO would break up, leaving no other Palestinian party that could sign a peace treaty.

[AL-SHURUQ] What is your view on rumors that Israel is planning to economically sweep the entire Arab region as soon as peace agreements are signed with the other Arab parties?

[Sha'th] I do not agree with this view. I think that the Israeli economy is not prepared to open up to the economies in the region within the framework of a Middle East market, which is an idea propagated by the media, and which is said to be Peres' dream of economic domination. I think that the Israeli economy depends, in the first place, on Western assistance. This economy receives $7 billion a year, including $1 billion in return for stockpiling strategic weapons. Therefore, I do not think that Israel is ready to dump the Arab markets with goods and services. I even doubt its ability to directly open up to the economies of the countries of the region.

[AL-SHURUQ] But peace will impose its special economy, so how do you see the economic future of the region?

[Sha'th] There are three economic plans that were worked out in preparation for the peace stage. The first of these plans was worked out by the PLO Economic Department, and was presented to the European Economic Community, the World Bank, and the Donors Conference that was held in Washington early last month. This plan includes detailed figures about the needs of the self-rule area, estimated at $11 billion, half of which is for the population and the rest is for other facilities. This plan focuses on the role of the private sector in industry and agriculture in order to boost the economy of the Palestinian self-rule area.

The second plan, is the study prepared by the World Bank through a team of experts led by Prem Namarg [name as published]. This plan was seen as very important, but it has great political flaws because it ignores the subject of refugees' return and does not deal with the status of Jerusalem.

The third plan was worked out by Harvard University, and was supervised by a group of experts. This plan defines some of the starting points of the Palestinian economy in the self-rule area. This study can be seen as a political plan rather than economic one.

In addition to these three plans, there is also a study on the development dynamics in the area. The Netherlands adopted this study, and a meeting was held in Brussels to discuss it. So far, the final report on this study has not been published.

I would like to say here that I suggested to the Dutch the example of Singapore as a successful model in order to chart out plans for exports. I would also like to point out that 20 Palestinians from Gaza have participated in preparing this study.

[AL-SHURUQ] Do you agree with the view that political developments necessitate ending the Arab boycott of Israel?

[Sha'th] It is time for the Arabs to deal with the subject of the boycott from the perspective of their interests rather than anything else. The occupied Arab territories are still subject to the Israeli boycott and the Palestinians are paying for this with their means of livelihood. So how can we as Arabs lift the boycott when our people in the West Bank are still suffering from the Israeli boycott?

[AL-SHURUQ] How do you view normalization between you and Israel?

[Sha'th] The issue of normalization is a complicated one and must pass through several stages. Normalization should be in line with the peace process, step by step. Normalization should not precede the peace process. The Palestinian-Israeli agreement includes principles on economic cooperation. However, this is not linked to the peace steps so that it will not lead to blackmail or hegemony.

[AL-SHURUQ] How do you assess the Jordanian-Palestinian relations after the agreement, and when will the atmosphere of mistrust vanish?

[Sha'th] Much has been said following the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Much was said in Jordan, but, certainly, it was less than what is being said in Syria or even inside the Palestinian house itself. This is natural as long as differences do not reach the point of fighting. We are serious about cooperation with the Jordanian brothers. The talk about cooperation will not reach the point of persuasion until after we enter the stage of implementation.

[AL-SHURUQ] Will the Jordanian dinar continue to be used in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

[Sha'th] Yes, and we will cooperate with the Central Bank of Jordan, especially since our people under occupation are not fully prepared.

[AL-SHURUQ] Let us go back to the future of Gaza and Jericho. Some people claim that internecine fighting will take place if differences escalate. What is your opinion?

[Sha'th] I should admit that this is an existing danger and one should struggle against it. However, it is difficult to imagine that the world would allow the Palestinians to engage in internecine fighting. Moreover, the intra-Palestinian dialogue calls for optimism. For example, there was some talk about fighting between Hamas and Fatah in the past. However, what happened in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank the day the agreement was signed was a genuine example. There shops closed down in the morning at Hamas' request to protest the signing of the agreement, then the people celebrated the signing of the same agreement in the afternoon.

[AL-SHURUQ] We notice some contradiction between the Israeli and Palestinian statements regarding the major and fateful issues in the agreement.

[Sha'th] What I say and what Rabin says constitutes a conflict between wills. Neither he nor I can predict the unforeseen, we can just define our stands. So, differences lie in the political will, not in the interpretation of the agreement which says that we still have much ahead of us on which to negotiate. My optimism is not a myth. Israel has signed the agreement because it wants to end military confrontation and the state of instability. As for us, we will not settle this conflict without meeting conditions that are well known to them. These conditions are the establishment of the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and the dismantling of settlements.

Official Comments on Control of Border Crossings

PM1512145493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Dec 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "PLO Official: Keeping Crossings Under Israeli Control Unacceptable"]

[Excerpts] Amman, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, AFP—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat personally took over the negotiations concerning Palestinian self-rule arrangements when he decided with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo the day before yesterday to freeze the work of the Cairo committee entrusted with discussing security questions.

Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation in this committee, declined to make any comment yesterday. A Palestinian official accompanying 'Arafat in Cairo, who asked to remain anonymous, said that freezing the committee's work indicates a change of tactic and paves the way for a concession by the PLO, especially regarding the crossings between Gaza and Egypt on the one hand and Jericho and Jordan on the other. [passage omitted]

On the possibility of settling these disagreements, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, President 'Arafat's adviser in the occupied territories, said that the Palestinian side hopes that the next few days will see extensive contacts between the two sides in order to surmount the points of disagreement, on the grounds that they are fundamental issues, as far as the Palestinian side is concerned, especially with regard to controlling the crossings. He stressed that President 'Arafat and other Palestinian leadership members cannot pass through the bridges and crossings area as long as it is controlled by Israeli soldiers.

A Palestinian official in Amman told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Palestinian leadership will not abandon the control of border crossings in the self-rule area, and that no Palestinian official would allow himself to abandon them or leave them under the Israeli Army's control. He pointed out that the utmost concession that can be offered in this connection is to place them, that is the crossings, under the control of international forces with which Israel has no link.

The Palestinian official asked what is meant by Israeli withdrawal from the areas specified by the agreement, when the Israeli side continues to insist on controlling the main crossings. He stressed that withdrawal means withdrawal with all its consequences. Otherwise, if we accept what Israel is proposing with regard to the crossings, it will mean the continued occupation of the land—which conflicts with the simplest concepts of the agreement's implementation, and hence, what will we have gained if the Gaza crossings with Egypt are controlled by the Israelis and the bridges with Jordan are controlled also by them?

He stressed that Israeli control of the crossings is completely unacceptable at all levels.

Citing some Palestinian and Arab circles saying that delaying [the withdrawal] for 10 days is not a problem, the Palestinian official said that "it has nothing to do with the number of days. What we are interested in as a Palestinian leadership is the other party's credibility and whether it wants to implement the agreement." He said that the period in question is a precious opportunity for everyone to reexamine his position. Because, despite the difficulties the Rabin government is facing from settlers, there is still a chance to comply with the implementation of the agreement's clauses in time. That consequently brings us to another question: Is the Israeli leadership committed to implementing the agreement, or does it just want to procrastinate? He said: "We will wait for the answer as regards its credibility after the end of the 10-day period."

'Abd-al-Shafi: Delay Affects 'Arafat Credibility

PM1612114493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Dec 93 p 6

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by Ruba al-Husari in Gaza "yesterday"]

[Excerpts] [Al-Husari] How do you view the effect of delaying the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement on the Palestinian scene?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is clear that the mood of the masses, who were optimistic when the Declaration of Principles was signed, has changed as a result of the usual Israeli practices, whether the pursuit of the fugitives or the nonrelease of Palestinian prisoners. Nothing has changed in Israeli policy to prove that there is a serious move toward peace. The optimism has turned into concern, especially in view of the difficulties in the negotiations with regard to implementing the agreement—which forced a summit meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat. This summit, in turn, failed to reach an understanding on commitment to the set date.

[Al-Husari] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has always maintained that 13 December is not sacred, while President Yasir 'Arafat insisted that it was sacred. But in the end the former's word prevailed. Will this affect 'Arafat's credibility?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Without doubt it will affect his credibility. I was surprised at Yasir 'Arafat's saying that this date is sacred. What does that mean? And what does it mean for him to later abandon this "sacred" date? This position as a whole will affect his credibility among the masses. There was no need for him to say that, as saying the date is "sacred" means that, if the agreement is not implemented on that date, it will collapse and become null and void. This is why I doubted what 'Arafat intended and which he nevertheless continued to utter. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husari] Do you expect the Oslo agreement to collapse just as the Washington negotiations collapsed?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The possibility exists. However, my position is that, despite my strong reservations about the agreement, we have no objection to taking over authority. We are entitled to be in charge of our facilities, whatever they are. We are entitled to prove our ability to run our own affairs—which is very important. But at the same time we should not abandon our known national rights. And there is an issue which we must raise if the leadership cannot do so, namely the issue of the continuation of settlement, which completely conflicts with peace prospects. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husari] How do you see your role in the next stage, especially with regard to the formation of the national authority?

['Abd-al-Shafi] First, I did not want to have a role in what is happening, because I am not satisfied with the agreement and did not participate in drafting it, nor was I consulted over it. But generally, and despite my dissatisfaction with it, I believe that it has become a reality and thus we must deal with the agreement in a manner that achieves Palestinian interests. This is why despite my objection to it, I encourage all Palestinians, including the opposition, to deal with the issue of transferring powers, because it is in our interests. And we must also prove we are capable of running our own affairs. At the same time there has to be protest against settlement and the demand for it to be halted. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husari] There have recently been increasing Israeli statements urging 'Arafat to control Hamas by force. In your view, what is the ideal way to deal with Hamas as an opposition which could become strong?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I call on Hamas to agree to reach a formula that provides a basis on which to work with the other Palestinian organizations. I believe that we are at a stage in which all political forces on the scene can unite and adopt a unified frontal position. We must work for that in order to achieve our aim of establishing an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. Then we can pursue a sound democratic line through elections through which all forces and organizations respect the democratic principle.

[Al-Husari] Do you believe that Hamas is capable of destroying the Oslo agreement?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I believe that, as a result of the negative aspects in the agreement—and they are fundamental negative aspects like settlement and Jerusalem—it will be easy for the opposition to obstruct, and perhaps destroy, the agreement. I personally do not want us to appear to world public opinion as the quarter destroying the agreement. It is in our interests to show that it is the Israeli position which is destroying the agreement. Because—despite the negative aspects it contains—Palestinians, including those who participated in drafting it, have unanimously agreed that the ultimate aim is to achieve Palestinian national aims: establishing a Palestinian state, the refugees' right of return. So it is a matter of tactics. I do not agree to the opposition's tactic of trying to destroy the agreement through violence. I want that to happen through the Israeli position, which is clinging to force and denying the Palestinian people their natural rights. [passage omitted]

People's Party Criticizes Implementation Delay

TA1512164993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 15 Dec 93 p 3

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Gaza—The Palestinian People's Party issued a statement in Gaza yesterday on the nonimplementation of the Declaration of Principles accord and the achievement of national goals, epitomized by the right of return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The statement said that Israel views the accord as a means to prolong the occupation by merely changing its shape and dealing with the Palestinian problem as if they are doing us a favor. Not only has the occupation not abandoned its old policy and mentality, but has become more zealous in its practices against Palestinians.

In its statement, the People's Party called on the coming national authority to form a Palestinian constitution with the agreement of all forces. The constitution should ensure universal freedoms, political pluralism, respect for human rights, and the rule of law and should rely on a democratic approach in dealing with the masses.

The People's Party criticized Rabin's government and its attempt to sidestep, renege on, and delay the withdrawal date of 13 December. This has left an adverse effect on the process of a just peace.

Islamic Jihad Threatens Gaza Military Chief

NC1512212893 Paris AFP in English 2037 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Beirut, Dec 15 (AFP)—Hardline Palestinian group Islamic Jihad in Palestine warned Wednesday [15 December] it would "execute" the Israeli military commander in the occupied Gaza Strip "in the coming hours," in a statement released here.

The group said its armed wing had decided to "avenge" the killings of Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) members by Israeli undercover units, and Islamic Jihad forces had "received the order to carry out a series of reprisals against the enemy army and settlers."

"The Eagles of the Jihad...have put on their list of objectives implementation of the death sentence on the military commander of the southern region (Gaza Strip)," the statement said.

"The enemy must know that daily terror and repression against our people and fighters will not prevent them from stepping up open warfare."

The statement was signed by Islamic Jihad's representative in Lebanon, Abu-'Ayid Muhammad.

Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian armed with an axe and wounded 14 others in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

On Monday troops shot dead a Palestinian suicide bomber as he drove a stolen ambulance towards an army jeep near the Nahal Oz crossing point into the central sector of the strip.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack, in which a soldier was lightly hurt, and said it was setting up suicide squads.

Islamic Jihad and Hamas have rejected the Palestinian autonomy accord, signed on September 13.

Israeli troops were due to start pulling out of the Gaza Strip and Jericho on Monday, but Israel and the PLO agreed Sunday night to postpone the deadline for about 10 days to try to reach an overall accord on implementation of the accord.

'Imad Aql, head of the Hamas armed wing 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, was shot dead by Israeli troops in Gaza City on November 24.

10 Palestinian Factions Meet, Issue Statement

JN1512193093 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The 10 Palestinian factions [opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks] have issued a press statement. It says:

The secretaries general of the 10 Palestinian factions have met Iranian Vice President Habibi and Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The secretaries general of the 10 Palestinian factions briefed the vice president on the latest Palestinian situation and stated that the majority of the Palestinian people reject the humiliating 'Arafat-Rabin agreement. They also affirmed that the jihadist escalation in the glorious Palestinian intifadah is proof to the whole world that the majority of the Palestinian people reject this disgraceful agreement. They added that the agreement causes severe damage to the Palestine question, deprives its people of their right to repatriation and self-determination, and exposes holy Jerusalem, the Kiblah of all Muslims throughout the world, to Judaization and makes it a captive of the Zionist occupation.

The secretaries general of the 10 Palestinian factions also explained the dangers, which will threaten the glorious Palestinian intifadah as a result of the the dispatch of large Zionist forces to the West Bank and Gaza to kill all the intifadah activists under the pretext of coordinating with 'Arafat, who approves all these matters to prepare the arena when he enters the self-rule area.

The Iranian vice president explained Iran's firm support for the Palestinian people's struggle and jihad, as well as its strong support for their legitimate rights. Habibi also stressed his country's position on the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, and said that the agreement does not represent the will of the Palestinian people or the aspirations of their mujahidin and the intifadah people.

[signed] The 10 Palestinian factions

'Zionist' Landing Operation Reported

JN1612092593 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0858 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] We have received the following from our correspondent in northern Lebanon:

At 2300 on Wednesday, 15 December, the Zionist enemy carried out a naval landing operation in Nahr al-Barid refugee camp. Our correspondent added that the Palestinian revolution forces stationed in the camp confronted the Zionist enemy soldiers and defeated them. Two of our revolutionaries were wounded.

Israel To Allow Return of 50 Long-Time Deportees

TA1512141893 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 15 Dec 93 pp 1, 18

[Excerpt] Amman, QUDS PRESS—Palestinian sources have said that Israel has agreed in principle to return 50 old-time Palestinian deportees to the occupied Arab territories within the next few days.

The sources said that Israel's consent to repatriate those deportees came in the wake of a meeting held in the first week of December in Geneva.

The meeting was attended by Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli delegation to the Taba talks, as the Israeli Government's representative. Three Palestinians—Amin al-Hindi, Muhammad Dahlan, and Jibril al-Rajub—attended the meeting as the Palestinian side's representatives.

The sources stressed that the list includes a number of Fatah and Palestinian People's Party leaders. The sources noted that among the proposed names are Amin Maqbul, Akram Haniyah, Yusuf Harb, 'Adil Nafi', Muhammad Dahlan, Ahmad Nasr, Marwan al-Barghuthi, Mahmud 'Isa, and Jibril al-Rajub. [passage omitted]

197 Palestinian Deportees Leave Lebanon

NC1512120893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Some 197 Palestinian deportees left Marj al-Zuhur camp in south Lebanon this morning for the occupied border strip. Israel said it will allow the 197 of 215 deportees to return home today. Before leaving, deportees spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said 18 deportees have refused to go back for personal reasons. All the deportees will be detained by the Israeli authorities upon their return for questioning. It will then be decided who will go home and who will remain in detention.

Zummarayya Crossing Point Reopens

NC1612110793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces and the Lahd militia this morning reopened the Zummarayya crossing point for vehicles moving from the occupied Hasbayya region to al-Biqa'. The crossing was closed almost a year ago following the deportation of the Palestinians to Marj al-Zuhur.

Our correspondent in Hasbayya reports that the crossing will be opened to pedestrians on Monday [20 December] morning.

OPEC Affairs

'No Problem' Seen With Iraq's Return to Market

NC1512124793 Paris AFP in English 0925 GMT 15 Dec 93

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 15 (AFP)—OPEC is confident is can reinstate Iraq into its oil production quota system without prices crumbling after the United Nations lifts its Gulf war embargo of Baghdad, the cartel said Wednesday [15 December].

"There is no problem at all with Iraq's return to the oil market," Muhammad al-Sahlawi, the OPEC information chief, told AFP during a visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). "We have special measures to absorb that return."

The spectre of the resumption of Iraqi crude exports has conspired with excess market supply and other factors to put pressure on prices, sending them to their lowest level in more than five years.

Iraq, formerly one of the leading producers within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, is still banned from exporting oil under the U.N embargo imposed after [illegible]'s 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

In an interview with the Egyptian radio Sawt al-Arab [Voice of the Arabs] on Tuesday, Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli said Iraq was not expected back in the market before six months to one year.

"There is an agreement among OPEC's oil ministers to meet as soon as the embargo on Iraq is removed in order to map out a formula to absorb it," al-Sahlawi said.

"We are confident we can deal with this situation as we have done when Kuwait resumed oil exports."

Al-Sahlawi declined to elaborate on the measures or say which members would cut output to give way to Iraq. But Gulf oil sources said they believed Saudi Arabia and other regional oil heavyweights were expected to bear the brunt.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude exporter, boosted output by nearly three million b/d and the UAE by 500,000 b/d to make up for the market loss caused by the halt of Iraqi and Kuwaiti supplies during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

The move reversed a sharp increase in oil prices, which peaked at around 35 dollars per barrel after the invasion.

With pressure now building from excess supply from non-OPEC exporters and Iraq's possible return, prices have been languishing at nearly seven dollars below OPEC's target of 21 dollars.

"We expect prices to improve by the end of December or the beginning of January," al-Sahlawi said.

"There are several factors for our optimism, including the November production figures which showed OPEC was sticking to its agreement as well as the willingness by independent producers to cooperate."

He was referring to Oman's decision to cut production by between five and 10 percent from January and to contact other non-OPEC producers to restore market stability.

The decision on Tuesday followed talks between Omani Oil Minister Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari and OPEC president 'Abdallah al-'Atiyah of Qatar.

Al-Sahlawi said OPEC was not expected to reduce output on the grounds its October-March ceiling was realistic and matched demand.

But he added that the "mere announcement by independent producers to coordinate with OPEC would have a favourable psychological impact on the market."

Before the invasion, Iraq produced around 3.2 million barrels per day (b/d) and its crude reserves are estimated at 100 billion barrels. Its current output is running at around 600,000 b/d, for domestic consumption.

Speculation that the United Nations was about to reach a deal with Iraq for limited oil exports five months ago sharply depressed prices and prompted OPEC to seek emergency talks.

But the meeting was called off after the oil negotiations between the two sides failed.

Algeria

Malek: Killings of Foreigners 'Unforgivable'

LD1512214893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Twelve nationals of former Yugoslavia working at the Hydro-Elektra enterprise were assassinated yesterday by an armed group that had infiltrated into the residential quarters of the abovementioned enterprise's workers at its headquarters in the village of Tamezguida, Medea Province.

The security services' statement added that the victims were preparing to leave Algeria, like their 20 fellow countrymen who had left the country following the expiration of their contract with the enterprise. The contract began in 1990 to build underground routes to divert the Oued Chefa river toward the Bou Medfaa dam in Ain Defla Province.

In a statement, the Algerian Government strongly condemned such criminal acts that harm the reputation and dignity of Algeria and has offered its condolences to the Bosnian and Croatian Governments and to the relatives of the victims.

In a long interview—to be relayed tomorrow—that Prime Minister Redha Malek granted to the national television and news agency, he talked about the assassination of foreigners, among them the Croatian and Bosnian workers. Listen to this excerpt of the interview.

[Begin Malek recording] Just when we issued the investment law and had given foreign partners the opportunity to cooperate with us, we started attacking foreigners. This is something unforgivable, because those foreigners came to help us and to provide us with some of their technology and expertise to help advance and build Algeria. Now, you come and kill them. This is unforgivable, because it harms and deforms Algeria and Islam itself. We have reached the point at which we should distinguish between terrorism and Islam. Genuine Islam has nothing to do with it terrorism.

Islam never says go and kill somebody or kill a foreigner. Islam has nothing to do with it. Those who disguise themselves under the cover of Islam and its banner are 100-percent wrong. Islam is against such behavior and categorically condemns it.

Yesterday they killed 11 or 12—a group of Croats who were working here and were about to leave; they killed them. These assassinations are incredible. Algeria will be accountable for this, not me, not you, but all of Algeria, and the Algerian Government will be accountable for this. The price will be very high in this respect.

Those people should understand that Islam has nothing to do with it, and it is unacceptable for them to disguise themselves under this cover. All the ulema in the entire history of Islam—read [words indistinct] of Imam Malik Bin Anas, Ahmed Bin Hanbal, Imam al-Shafi'i, Abu Hanifa—what do they all say? They say sedition is unacceptable. What those who stray from the path, the law, and authority get in return is well-known in Islam. [end recording]

GIA Claims Responsibility; 8 Escape

NC1612110293 Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Algiers, Dec 16 (AFP)—Eight workers from former Yugoslavia escaped being massacred in Algeria this week with 12 compatriots by "swearing they were Moslems," the government paper EL MOUDJAHID said here Thursday.

The murders happened Tuesday night at Tamezguida, a mountainous spot 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of the capital in a region regarded as an Islamic fundamentalist stronghold.

On Thursday, the Islamic Armed Group (GIA) claimed the killings in a communique published in the Arab daily Al-Hayah, which is distributed in London and Paris.

The fundamentalist group said the "military operation" was carried out as part of "GIA's ultimatum against foreign crusaders" and "in answer to the massacres of our fellow Moslems butchered in Bosnia."

The eight survivors, actually Croatian Christians, were found later locked up with the worksite's dozen Algerian workers. Two other foreigners also escaped the massacre because they were out on an inspection tour of the worksite at the time.

Press reports said the killings took place just several hundred metres (yards) from an army camp. They said between 30 and 60 men in military fatigues, armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles and sawed-off shotguns, invaded the workers' compound at about 8:30 p.m. as the men were getting ready for supper. They were all rounded up and their hands bound.

Twelve of them, Christians from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, were dragged off to a dry river-bed 100 metres (yards) away.

They were stripped and had their throats cut.

The bodies were discovered down in the gully some two hours later by an army patrol looking for an Algerian from a nearby village whose mother had reported his kidnapping.

Croatian Vice Foreign Minister Ivo Sanader left Zagreb Thursday for Algeria to visit the worksite where the Croatians were massacred.

Sanader is to meet Algerian officials to discuss the investigation into the murders.

The massacre brought to 21 the number of foreigners killed in Algeria since late September, when Islamic fundamentalists began targeting expatriates they accused of collaborating with the government.

One of the most radical opposition movements, the Armed Islamic Group, issued an ultimatum at the end of October giving foreigners one month to quit Algeria.

Paper Urges Closure of Moroccan Border

LD1612025993 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On the subject of Algeria, this morning a particularly biting editorial concerning Morocco featured on the front page of the [Algerian] paper EL WATAN. The paper wonders whether the border with Morocco should be closed, and it asserts, I quote, that Algerian terrorists have every opportunity to cross Moroccan territory before entering Algeria. The paper continues: There is no doubt that the Moroccan Interior Ministry is behind this operation. Tayeb Belriche, the editor in chief of EL WATAN, explains to Kamel Djaider:

[Begin Belriche recording] Many terrorists have been arrested. They came from Morocco. The security forces have seized submachine guns—over the last three months in particular a crescendo has been observed—especially Scorpio and Uzi submachine guns with silencers. A figure of 80 recovered from terrorist groups at the Algerian-Moroccan border has been put forward, and knowing Morocco, which is a classic example of a police state, you cannot tell me that this happened without the knowledge of the Moroccan authorities. According to our information, the Algerian authorities have contacted the Moroccan Government on several occasions to tell it to put an end to these operations. Unfortunately, this has not happened, and according to our information they are continuing all the more to turn Morocco into a transit territory for the Afghans in particular—whether from Iran or Afghanistan. This is a means of pressure being applied to Algeria. There is the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio Front]—perhaps they believe that in this way they will discourage Algeria from supporting the Polisario Front any longer. One notes even in school books and tourist books that Morocco is still not giving up Tindouf [in Algeria]. It has never given it up. Who can tell me that a civil war would not suit Morocco's purposes in order possibly to snatch part of Algerian territory ? [end recording]

Those were the words of Tayeb Belriche, the editor in chief of the Algerian paper EL WATAN. So far there has been no official reaction from the Moroccan authorities.

FFS Leaders Urge Political Solution to Crisis

LD1512152193

[Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1105 GMT on 15 December carries the 41-minute recorded "Transformations" program with an unidentified correspondent and the following members of the Socialist Forces Front [FSS] leadership: Kamel Daoud, acting secretary general; Said Khelil, organization secretary; and Ahmed Demri, Boumerdes Province committee member. Reception is good.

The correspondent begins by saying that some parties had expressed reservations about the national dialogue, because the National Dialogue Commission's achievements had not been enough. He adds that the national conference might be held after the end of this year.

Daoud expresses concern about the deteriorating conditions in the country. The FFS, he says, has asked the Commission not to exclude the people from the dialogue.

The correspondent asks Khelil why—in light of the new developments of the National Dialogue Commission's work to include more political forces in the dialogue—the FFS says that real dialogue has not yet started. Khelil replies by recalling FFS proposals on how to overcome the crisis after the cancellation of the elections. The FFS, he says, has always said that a comprehensive political solution is the answer to the country's problem. He adds that the dialogue should be open and transparent so that trust in the Commission will be restored.

Demri is asked if the Commission's dialogue had failed or had not achieved enough. Demri endorses Khelil's remarks about the political crisis being the main crisis of the country, which will need political solutions. Demri recalls past political problems that were not addressed by politicians and that led to an impasse: violence and repression. When pressed by the correspondent to assess the Commission's new steps to reassure the FFS, Demri says the important things to the FFS are practical steps to calm the situation.

Daoud stresses that action should be taken quickly. He says the FFS wants a solution, but the government's method was not positive and would not lead to a political solution—although he acknowledges that the situation is complicated. He reiterates what the other guests have said: that the solution should be comprehensive and with the participation of all the people. He also stresses that a lot of time has been wasted. The main thing now, he adds, is not to meet the 31 December deadline, but to find a credible solution to gain the trust of the people and to open a new political chapter. He stresses the importance of elections and respect for the law.

Khelil reiterates the FFS position that the dialogue should be with the Army, because it would guarantee a political solution that he hopes would be a democratic one. Then, he adds, the Army should pull out of the political field and play its role: defending the country. He says that historically the Army has always been involved in the government; hence, the FFS said the dialogue should be directly with the Army in order to find a new democratic path. He says the Army will guarantee the credibility of solutions.

The guests then discuss violence in society. Daoud says the FFS is sad about it and that violence should be extinguished by political means.

Ettahadi Leader Criticizes Dialogue Commission

LD1512201593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Hashemi Cherif, the secretary general of the Ettahadi Movement [formerly Socialist Vanguard Party], held a news conference this morning at the Artists' Club at the headquarters of national radio. He spoke about a number of issues that concern the country. Murad Medaoui attended the news conference and will provide us with this report live from the studio:

[Medaoui] Algeria is going through a serious crisis which exceeds in type and size the crisis which it came out of relatively safely in 1971 [year as heard]. That is how Hashemi Cherif began his news conference, where he clarified his position on the current dialogue conducted by the National Dialogue Commission.

The Ettahadi Movement said the crisis that the country was going through had strategic and political characteristics and was not merely a government crisis, or one of a lack of sociopolitical programs. The crisis was comprehensive and was related to national identity, and accordingly was linked to the crisis of the project for a better society.

In this context, Hashemi Cherif strongly criticized the policy of the National Dialogue Commission, which discarded the issue of society in its dialogue with the parties involved. He also criticized it for its views on the dialogue and the parties it should talk to.

Concerning reports by Algerian newspapers on restructuring and rescheduling the foreign debt, the Ettahadi Movement said that the issue had remained unclear until now. The report had to be investigated first, because it could have been diplomatic pressure by some quarters in France that have tried repeatedly to draw the country into rescheduling its debts.

Despite that, Hashemi Cherif said that his movement supported the idea of rescheduling the debt so as to revive the national economy—as he put it—and not to impede political decision-making. He added that the rescheduling decision was wise and logical.

Hashemi Cherif did not stop at that. He went beyond that by demanding that actual economic reform take place alongside the debt rescheduling.

Journalists' questions revolved around the situation in the country after December and the possible solutions that the Ettahadi Movement saw, while it continued to boycott the dialogue to get the country out of its current crisis.

Further on Leader's Comments

LD1512235193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The secretary general of the Ettahadi Movement [created out of the Socialist Vanguard Party last year], Mr. Hachemi Cherif, today held a news conference and talked about a number of topics relating to the dialogue, security matters, and the republicans' movement [as heard]. The news conference was attended by our colleague Ameur Bahloul:

[Bahloul] At the club of journalists and artists, Mr. Hachemi Cherif, the secretary general of the Ettahadi Movement, this morning held a news conference and talked about his movement's positions on terrorism, national dialogue, and the republicans' movement.

[Begin Cherif recording] Is the bloody war of extermination that the fundamentalists are waging against Algeria, its elite and its economic, social and cultural capabilities, by relying on the Fundamentalist International, merely the result of a big misunderstanding? Is it just a misunderstanding? [preceding sentence in French] Is the development of terrorism merely the result of this misunderstanding or is it the result of the absence of a break with the past and a lack of radical change, which the people are waiting for? Since the republican program is based on tolerance and humanism, and since it incorporates Algeria's march within the framework of world progress and loyalty to the values of 1 November 1954, it does not exclude the legitimate interests of any of the social and cultural components of the nation, nor does it exclude any political persuasion so long as it respects the separation between the political and the religious which constitutes the main basis of the republican system; and so long as this persuasion abandons any idea of domination, and intolerance, fanaticism and obscurantism. [end recording]

Guidance Society Urges Release of Leader

LD1512230393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Twenty days after Mr. Mohamed Bouslimani was kidnapped, the Guidance and Reform Society has urged his abductors, in an open letter addressed to them today, to release him and not to be the cause of discord between children of the same homeland.

It is worth mentioning that so far nobody has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping.

Security Forces Kill 3, Arrest 20 Around Country

LD1512230093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] In a statement released today, the security forces announced that they killed three members of armed groups and arrested 25 others in the provinces of Algiers, Tebessa, Sidi-Bel-Abbes, and Tiaret between 12 and 14 December.

Egypt

Prime Minister, Delegation Leave for Damascus

NC1612102893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi left Cairo for Damascus this morning. He is leading a large Egyptian ministerial delegation on a three-day visit to Syria to attend the meetings of the Egyptian-Syria higher joint committee. The committee meetings, which will open later today in Damascus, will be co-chaired by Egyptian and Syrian prime ministers 'Atif Sidqi and Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is scheduled to receive Prime Minister Sidqi, who will convey to him a message from President Mubarak concerning the fraternal relations between the two countries. On the sideline of the committee meetings, Dr. Sidqi will hold meetings with some Syrian officials to discuss all aspects related to consolidating bilateral relations.

The Egyptian delegation comprises Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; and the ministers of transport and communications, economy, industry, finance, petroleum, health, scientific research, local administration, and the minister of state for cabinet affairs.

Sha'th Meets With Musa, Views Peace Talks

NC1512163393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. After the meeting, Sha'th said that when matters get complicated, the Palestinians turn to Egypt to help resolve issues and reach an agreement that guarantees the Palestinian people's national rights in light of the Declaration of Principles agreement. He noted that he briefed Musa on details of the Palestinian stance as outlined in the plan submitted before 'Arafat met with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and the talks were postponed for 10 days. He pointed out that President Mubarak gave instructions to Musa so that Egypt can play an effective role in bringing views closer before the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting scheduled in Cairo for 22 or 23 December.

'Arafat's Proposal on Crossing Points Backed

NC1612083793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has described Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's latest proposal for Palestinian-Israeli joint coordination at border and crossing points as an important and daring step toward settling differences logically. The paper notes that this step needs to be followed by a similar one by the Israeli side.

In its commentary today, the paper says the idea of Israel controlling the borders of the new Palestinian state cannot be accepted, especially as the borders will link one Arab country with two other Arab countries, that is, Egypt and Jordan. Each of these countries has contributed significantly to the comprehensive peace march in the region.

The paper notes that the intransigence and failure to respond to 'Arafat's positive proposal to bring the Palestinian and Israeli views closer and overcome the difficulties obstructing the implementation of the Declaration of Principles, signed by the two sides over three months ago, will serve neither the interests of peace nor those of Israel.

Announcement of Clinton-al-Asad Meeting Praised

NC1512170193 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Dec 93 p 14

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] The announcement about a meeting between U.S. President Clinton and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is a new and distinguished step toward a peaceful Middle East solution that, in my opinion, is no less important than the Gaza-Jericho Agreement.

Those who have been following the Middle East issue know that the atmosphere of Syrian-American relations required purification before any meeting between the two presidents. But since the time and place of the meeting have been announced, this is, by any standard, an indication of goodwill.

If the Golan Heights problem worries Syria, which previously expressed its stance on the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, confirming that it neither supports nor rejects the agreement, then I believe the atmosphere is now right for President Hafiz al-Asad to discuss with President Clinton all the dimensions, possibilities, details, and particulars of this problem in light of his country's interests first, and Arab interests in general, especially since Warren Christopher announced that the meeting between the two presidents will be based on finding a solution to the Middle East problem in line with Resolutions 242 and 338.

There is a long time to go before the al-Asad-Clinton meeting slated for mid-January next year. But I believe that the mere announcement of such a meeting is enough to prompt all the sides to reassess things and evaluate their steps based on different concepts.

The Egyptian effort at every stage is clear and tangible. Cairo has taken it upon itself to find a just and permanent solution to the problem. This is why it has not stopped providing aid and help for one minute.

Egypt has cleared many mines along the way gently, wisely, and skillfully. It has also helped overcome so many obstacles with unyielding determination and the patience of Job. It has worked very hard to bring opposing views closer objectively, away from bias and whims.

This is an impartial word of truth with no flattery intended, so that some people do not forget or pretend to forget.

Disappearance of Former Libyan Official Noted

Human Rights Group Expresses Concern

LD1412152693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1335 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (KUNA)—The Arab Organization for Human Rights [AOHR] has expressed great concern following the disappearance of a former Libyan official who has joined the opposition and is now a member of the organization's secretarial council. It has held the Egyptian authorities responsible for his safety.

The AOHR, which has its headquarters in Cairo, added, in a statement, a copy of which was received by KUNA today, that it was feeling very anxious over the disappearance of Mansur al-Kikhya, who is member of its secretariat, from his hotel in Cairo after 1100 last Saturday. No official statement has so far been issued by Cairo on the disappearance of former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya from his hotel in the heart of Cairo last Saturday in very ambiguous circumstances.

The AOHR said that Mr. Kikhya arrived in Cairo on 29 November at the invitation of the organization to take part in its third plenary meeting on 1-2 December. However, he extended his stay for another few days before disappearing on 11 December.

The statement pointed out: "The AORH's concern grew greater because of the fact that al-Kikhya was due to have a number of meetings at the hotel and that his belongings were still at his room there."

Arab Lawyers Voice Concern

NC1412170893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1607 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—The Arab Lawyers Association issued a statement today concerning the disappearance of Mansur Rashid al-Kikhya, a former Libyan diplomat and a member of the secretarial council of the Arab Organization for Human Rights.

According to the statement, the Association is deeply concerned about al-Kikhya's disappearance three days ago. It fears that the disappearance is part of a willful scheme and that al-Kikhya's life may be in considerable danger.

In its statement, the Association terms the incident a violation of international human rights norms and conventions. It calls on all concerned parties to try to save al-Kikhya and secure his freedom and return to public life.

Economic Sanctions on South Africa Lifted

NC1612130293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1208 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—The Foreign Ministry today announced Egypt's decision to immediately cancel all economic sanctions imposed on South Africa and its subjects, be they individual or corporate.

A Foreign Ministry statement pointed out that the decision to lift the sanctions applies to trade, investment, finance, tourism, maritime and air transport, and communications. But the statement reiterated Egypt's commitment to a statement issued by the OAU's Southern Africa Committee on 29 February maintaining the sanctions on nuclear weapons and cooperation.

In its announcement, the Foreign Ministry said Egypt's decision to lift the economic sanctions on South Africa comes in light of the positive developments under way in South Africa and the progress in the negotiations among the various parties there. The negotiations led to the approval of an interim Constitution, the establishment of a transitional executive council that is already functioning, and preparations for legislative elections scheduled for 27 April 1994. The statement stressed that these measures constitute "important signs" for establishing the pillars of a democratic and nonracial society in South Africa. The statement noted that the decision to lift the sanctions is based on the statement by the OAU's Southern Africa Committee on 29 September, which supported African leader Nelson Mandela's call for lifting the economic and trade sanctions on South Africa, apart from the sanctions on nuclear weapons and cooperation.

The Foreign Ministry said today that the Egyptian decision also comes in response to the UN General Assembly's resolution in this regard issued on 12 October.

Foreign States Implicated in Aiding Terrorists

Arab Capital Implicated in Attack on Sidqi

NC1412183993 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 8 Dec 93 p 1

[Report by Tharwat Shalabi]

[Excerpt] Well-informed Arab sources in Cairo have told AL-AHALI that the order to carry out the attempt on Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's life was given over the telephone from the capital of an Arab country that does not neighbor Egypt. The attack took place in Manshiyat al-Bakri, in Cairo, on 25 November

The sources pointed out that a high-level official met recently with a visitor from that country and called his attention to the fact that groups of terrorists who were uncovered in the preceding few weeks arrived in Egypt from that capital, now serving as a haven in which these groups receive training. [passage omitted]

Editorial Alleges 'Foreign Role'

NC1512080693 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Dec 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Silence Is No Longer Possible"]

[Text] The infrequent terrorist acts which have taken place in Egypt throughout 1993, targeting state officials, have revealed a foreign role; there is no longer any doubt that this role includes supporting and facilitating acts of terrorism, giving them a public dimension, and causing an uproar in Egypt. Security reports, statements by officials, and the reality on the ground show that terrorist acts have started declining in almost all aspects in recent months. They are now limited to a few acts every now and then in comparison to what is happening in other countries in the world and the region. Some countries in the region are witnessing real terrorism comparable to what happened in Egypt itself during 1992. However, despite the decline in number and severity of incidents, we have begun to see terrorist activities of a special nature that are linked to elements residing abroad and receiving support from known sources. Perhaps they just want to prove that terrorism still exists and to satisfy those that are funding them.

To deal with this development, Egypt needs to change its policy on how to deal with those countries or foreign powers that allow these terrorists to reside there or that provide them with direct or indirect support on various pretexts. We cannot use conventional ways and means to deal with elements or parties that are trying to destabilize Egypt or with countries that are talking about political asylum for certain people who have publicly claimed responsibility for terrorist actions in Egypt. Perhaps Egypt needs to find other ways in the future, because silence is no longer possible.

'Terrorists' in Yemen, Europe Noted

NC1412161093 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Dec 93 p 8

["Close Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "The Terrorist Leaders Are Abroad"]

[Text] The interrogation of some terrorists who were recently captured by the police has revealed that the masterminds and planners of these groups move in a number of other countries, some Arab and others European or Asian.

Most of these terrorist leaders and groups have previously been convicted in former terrorist cases or have been released after a period of detention. They managed to flee abroad and went to Afghanistan and Pakistan. They found the training camps the Afghan mojahedin had set up to be sanctuaries for them. Recently, when the noose was tightened around their necks, they started infiltrating into a number of European countries, such as Bulgaria, Switzerland, and Denmark, or to some Arab countries where there is political and social instability and internal upheaval, such as Yemen and Sudan.

It was strange that a statement issued by the Yemeni Socialist Party in Aden announced that there are seven training camps for terrorists in Yemen, either to provide training to carry out acts of sabotage or to perform political crimes inside Yemen and in other Arab countries. The Socialist Party asked that these camps be liquidated and the terrorists who are training in them be tried.

It is well known that Yemen has recently witnessed a state of instability as a result of the differences between the two competing fraternal parties and between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid. A number of assassinations and crimes have taken place there recently without the perpetrators being arrested. Therefore, it is not strange if terrorist elements take this opportunity to disappear and lie low in Yemen.

The situation is also strange regarding European countries that are believed to be combating terrorism and that abide by international agreements and laws and prohibit helping or sheltering terrorist groups. Through some telephone contacts made recently, it has been proven that certain European countries that are highly sensitive to these kinds of acts, such as Switzerland and Denmark, have granted political asylum to certain people who mastermind and carry out terrorist operations.

Contacts have been made with these countries to cooperate in containing and stopping these activities. However, the situation now requires stricter measures. Egypt has means at its disposal to exert pressure on these countries, to retaliate with the same treatment, and to make high-level contacts that will achieve speedy results. Since other countries that have been subjected to such violations have resorted to sending death and kidnapping squads—such as Israel, for example—what prevents us from doing the same thing?

Security Delegation To Visit Yemen

PM1412144693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Dec 93 p4

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Security Delegation To Visit Yemeni Capital To Discuss Activities of Afghan Egyptians There"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that an Egyptian security delegation will visit the Yemeni capital Sanaa soon for talks with Yemen Interior Ministry officials.

Informed political sources in Cairo have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that these talks are part of serious efforts to contain, early, the crisis of the presence of camps for the training and shelter of extremist Egyptians returning from Afghanistan via Yemeni territory, before the extremist activities expand to reach Yemen.

The sources said that contacts to make arrangements for the visit have already started, following reports of the presence of extremist camps in Yemen.

The sources said that Yemen has conveyed to Cairo its willingness to cooperate with Egypt in the security field with the aim of uncovering such elements if indeed they are in Yemen, and emphasized that it would deport any deviant elements immediately.

The Yemeni authorities have accused one of the local parties of being behind the charge that there are extremist elements in the country, and stressed that it is completely untrue.

Yemen has reaffirmed to Egypt its interest in maintaining good relations with Cairo and said that it will not allow anything to blemish these relations and possibly cause new tension between them. It also said that the Yemeni Government is prepared to take any measure that would help Egypt tackle acts of violence and extremism immediately.

Yemeni sources recently revealed the existence of seven camps for training extremists in Yemen. That almost coincided with Egyptian information about subversive activity originating in Yemen and about the existence of these camps.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a count of the number of cases of extremists believed to have infiltrated into Yemen and believed to have plans to carry out terrorist activities in Egypt this year is being prepared in preparation for the Egyptian delegation's visit, which is expected to begin sometime this month.

Security Officials Arrest Suspect Abroad

LD1412194293 Tehran IRNA in English 1907 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Athens, Dec. 14, IRNA—In a first action of its kind Egyptian security officials travelled abroad to arrest a suspected member of an Islamic group, Egyptian opposition daily AL-WAFD Tuesday [14 December] reported.

Security officials travelled to a "friendly country" to arrest Muhammad 'Abd al-Aziz Muhammad Abd al-'Al, an alleged member of Al Jihad who had escaped abroad after being sentenced to life imprisonment in 1989, revealed the paper.

AL-WAFD did not name the country where Abdul Aziz had sought refuge nor any dates, but said he would soon be handed over to judicial authorites to serve his sentence. Interior Ministry sources told the paper that security authorities are following the movements and contacts of Islamists inside and outside Egypt.

Three 'Terrorists' Hanged 16 Dec

NC1612105193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—Three terrorists sentenced to death by the Higher Military Court for carrying out terrorist operations against citizens and police were hanged this morning.

A responsible source in the military court told MENA that one of the executed terrorists was Yahya Mustafa Imam Shahrur, a principal defendant in Case No. 3, the Vanguards of Conquest [Tala'i' al- Fath] Organization. The source said the two other hanged terrorists were Muhammad Ahmad Hammudah and Hisham Taha Ahmad Salim, members of the so-called 19 Organization, who were sentenced to death by the Higher Military Court in Alexandria on 14 October.

The source said the death sentences on the three terrorists were carried out after all the legal measures had been taken and after their pleas to commute their sentences had been rejected.

Mauritania

Taya Holds Talks With French President, Others

AB1612112593 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Excerpt] President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, who arrived in France yesterday, is continuing his official visit. He had a busy day today with several meetings on his agenda. Our colleague Mohamed V[illegible]roun Ahmed from the national television, has more details:

[Begin Ahmed recording] The president arrived at 1200 at the Elysee Palace, headquarters of the French president. He was welcomed at the entrance of the palace by President Francois Mitterrand. After inspecting a guard of honor mounted by a Presidential Guard regiment, the two heads of state held a private session during which they examined matters of mutual interest, especially the bilateral relations which the French Foreign Ministry spokesman described as friendly. The spokesman, Richard Duque, said France is satisfied with the progress achieved in maintaining the rule of law in Mauritania since the January 1992 elections, adding: Mauritania has also improved its economic and financial management performance.

The session was later extended to include the members of the two delegations during a lunch hosted by President Mitterrand in honor of his guest, President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

After the meeting at the Elysee, the head of state answered questions put to him by French and foreign correspondents. He said in particular that they examined bilateral relations. He commended Mr. Mitterrand for the development aid France has been giving to Mauritania. On Mauritanian-Senegalese relations, the president said they were good and excellent.

This first day of the president's official visit was eventful as he made many contacts. This afternoon, he was invited to the Matignon Palace for a meeting with French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur. Both statesmen held long talks on various topics, especially on bilateral cooperation and avenues for strengthening it. Earlier on, he had been invited by Jacques Toubon, the minister of culture and Francophone affairs, with whom he held talks at a breakfast hosted in his honor. In regard to tourist attractions, the head of state went to the Louvre Museum, where he visited the newly created Richelieu section. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Morocco

Congolese Leader Praises King, Ends Visit

LD1412224993 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Pascal Lissouba, the president of the Republic of Congo, has left our country. He made the following statement before his departure.

[Begin Lissouba recording in French, fading to Arabic report] The Congolese president said that it was necessary for him to come to Morocco to meet his majesty the king who was—as he put it—one of Africa's major rulers, and to listen to his advice on the developments in our world, particularly Africa's problems. [end recording]

He clarified that his meeting with his majesty the king was a chance to discuss bilateral relations between Morocco and Congo in all fields, particularly in the scientific sector, as they are both deeply preoccupied with the need to fight this century's calamity, AIDS. He expressed his conviction that the two countries will try to take a series of practical measures in that direction. [passage omitted]

Restructuring Urged Before Entering Markets

LD1512170693 Rabat MAP in English 1312 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, Dec.15 (MAP)—Maghreb countries in general and Morocco in particular should complete their national structural adjustment programs before aspiring to penetrate markets in the Mideast and elsewhere, Chairman of the Moroccan Federation of Trade and Industry Chambers Abdellah Azmani said.

In a statement to MAP bureau here, Azmani said despite the growing importance of regional economic groupings, it is necessary to take into account the new world economic order based on internationalisation of economy and trade liberalization.

This new reality requires that national products be more competitive to conquer international markets, Azmani said, stressing the need for Maghreban countries to complete their structural adjustment programs, particularly concerning trade liberalization, securing financial stability, rationalisation of administrative systems, training, technology imports and reforming educational systems.

The more a country is engaged on the path of economic reforms, the stronger its chances to find outlets are, he said, underlining the need to implement accords concluded between Maghreban countries.

Morocco made large strides in the restructuring of its economy, Azmani said, adding that the country is diversifying its economic relations inside the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) and aspires to a partnership with the European Union.

Morocco, which is an active member on the Arab economic arena and which strives to consolidate its position in the African and Islamic worlds, is developing its agriculture and is laying sound foundations for a competitive industry, Azmani concluded.

Sudan

Al-Bashir: U.S. 'Leading' Action Against Sudan

JN1512103993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Dec 93 p 29

[Interview with Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir by Dr. Nabil al-Sharif in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sharif] Mr. President, we would like you to put us in the picture on the situation in southern Sudan, especially the intensive efforts to separate the south from the north, the latest of which was the U.S. Congress decision.

[Al-Bashir] [passage omitted] Talk about the separatist movement was created with support from some Arab forces. This support has continued. When the separatists left Addis Ababa after Mengistu [former Ethiopian president] was toppled, the separatist movement began to surface. This caused sensitivities in all neighboring countries because they are artificial states, established in accordance with borders set up by the colonialists. Conflicting groups live behind these borders. Some rebels were bold enough to speak about separation, and others spoke about unified Sudan because they hoped to receive the political and financial support of northern opposition forces. The political position of the rebels differs according to the area in which they are present. When they go to Arab countries, they take pains to say that they are not against Arabism in Sudan and they are not against Islam. They even set up an Islamic council. When they go to the African countries, they speak about repression against blacks, and say they are fighting for the sake of the south. When they go to Europe they speak about repression against Christians, and say that northern Sudan is against them. They take a different position everywhere they go.

When they sensed U.S. support, they showed their real face. We feel the United States is leading the action against Sudan now, and is preventing peace in Sudan. This has become clear in Abuja's second round of talks. Good preparations were made for these talks. It was agreed that John Garang would personally lead the rebels' delegation. We were surprised because Garang was invited to the United States on the same day, and he was kept there for 21 days, the full period the negotiations lasted. He arrived in Abuja on the last day, after the delegations agreed to issue a joint statement on the points of agreement and points of disagreement, and to conduct further consultations. Garang came on the last day to prevent the signing of this statement. Later, a Congressional delegation visited all the countries bordering Sudan and all the North African countries. Then the delegation claimed that they could not come to Khartoum due to problems with their plane. This means they visited Kampala, Nairobi, Addis Ababa, Asmara, Cairo, Tunis, and Algiers, but the plane faced technical problems when they wanted to come to Khartoum. They issued their report (Sudan the Disaster). This report was written by the Americans. The rebel leaders were asked to sign it. Each of the rebel leaders signed a different copy of the report. This showed that the whole operation is an American one. Whenever there are clear signs of negotiations or mediations, the Americans make decisions showing that they oppose any agreement. Some people are convinced that any regime that displeases the United States will collapse. When Carter began a mediation effort, a decision was made saying that Sudan is a terrorist country. Whenever we take a step forward, they make a decision on the other direction. We feel the United States is clearly behind the situation in Sudan, but we are determined not to relinquish the Sudanese cause, and we will continue to resist with confidence in victory, God willing.

[Al-Sharif] How do you evaluate the domestic situation during the four years of the revolution of salvation?

[Al-Bashir] You have the recent experiment of party rule in Sudan. It was a very disappointing experiment for the masses, which had pinned high hopes on it, in the aftermath of the Numayri's collapse. We in the Armed Forces adopted the same line and supported parties, democracy, elections, and the elections law. This is because there were forces against all of this. The one-man, one-vote law was supported by the Armed Forces, in the hope that party forces would, after 16 years of opposition to the Numayri regime, come up with a clearer view of how to run the country. However, on the first day there was a fierce conflict over personal gains. After assuming power, there was another conflict over gains, and they started talking openly about splitting the cake. [passage omitted]

On the domestic scene, we have absolutely no fear of the people. The fact that the masses have endured daily hardship and price increases shows clearly that the people are willing to sacrifice, because the previous government collapsed, despite the fact that it grouped the Ummah Party, the [Democratic] Unionist Party, and the [National Islamic] Front. It also had 90 percent of the parliamentary forces, but collapsed only because the price of sugar increased by 50 piasters. The masses accept us. Therefore, we are very confident about the internal front. All that is said by those sitting in Cairo is worthless and based on dreams.

[Al-Sharif] What is Sudan's attitude toward what is happening in the Arab world?

[Al-Bashir] We think that the Arab world is extremely weak. Regrettably, the Arabs no longer have the final say. Arab mistrust, especially after the Gulf war, presented a very suitable opportunity to the enemies of the nation to carry out their schemes. We tried hard to warn of this danger and to say that targeting Iraq, Sudan, Libya, and Yemen does not concern those countries alone. This is the beginning. The entire Arab world is targeted. No country will be spared. The aim in the end is to annihilate the Arab nation and the Islamic world. For Israel to survive and establish its greater state, it must wipe out the Arabs. The United States is no friend of any Arab or Muslim. U.S. foreign policy, whether under Clinton or Bush, is the same. Those people can never be friends of the Arabs. We would be lying to ourselves if we thought this is possible. It is a sign of weakness to believe that our enemy can be our friend or to surrender to what our enemy wants.

The Palestine question is clear as daylight. The solution should give the Palestinian people all their rights, including self-determination and establishing their state on all of their territory, with Jerusalem as its capital. Any solution that leads to a different result is incomplete and deprives us of the weapons we brandish in the face of Israel. We think that even if an agreement is reached with Israel, there should be no normalization and arms should not be laid down. Also, the intifadah should not be halted until all of Palestine is liberated. Any such measure before liberation would dispossess us of the weapons which we might use. I do not think this will prompt Israel to continue its withdrawal. Israel might make promises. Those who know the Jews and are familiar with the protocols of the wise men of Zion know that the Jews could blackmail and kill any other nation. They would do anything to protect themselves or the Jewish race. Anyone who cooperates with the Jews without having a good idea about their cultural and religious background is cultivating the sea. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir on Human Rights

EA1512201293 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the republic, has stressed that the southern problem is political and that it must be resolved by means of talks and negotiations. He said this during an interview with a correspondent from the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY [ANA] at the secretariat general of the Council of Ministers today.

Al-Bashir went on to say that the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] initiative was an extension of the government's efforts to bring about peace in the country, in spite of western pressures brought to bear to obstruct the process of peace and stability in Sudan. Lieutenant General al-Bashir said that the government was effectively providing relief to war victims in the south, including those in areas under rebel control. Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir also gave an interview for the British THE GUARDIAN, during which he spoke about Sudan's foreign relations and the political system in Sudan. He stressed that Sudan was seeking to set an example based on Islamic principles and values. He said the accusation of human rights violations leveled at Sudan were unfounded and untrue.

Commentary on International Support for Rebels

EA1512204393 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Reports carried by AL-INQADH AL-WATANI indicate that rebel Riak Machar [Teny Dhurgon], leader of the Unified Faction, is now being hailed by foreign forces as the solution to rebel John Garang, leader of the main faction leading the armed struggle against the government. The paper said he is regarded by observers of events as a pawn in the machinations of the colonialists, who are constantly assembling their [word indistinct] to interfere in Sudan's internal affairs.

The colonialist forces are trying to create a new rebel leadership because facts have indicated the end of the role of rebel Garang, who was previously the apple of the eye of Sudan's enemies, who were supporting him and giving him material and moral assistance. However, in light of the moral and military defeat inflicted on him by our armed forces and the popular defense forces, which succeeded in liberating the territory and the people in all the rebel areas from the filth of outlaws and rebels, Garang became in the eyes of those supporting him in their own interests no longer worth their backing. They then started looking in the direction of Riak Machar, who had taken a major step forward in negotiating for peace with the government. These bilateral negotiations prompted the colonialist forces to interfere, with a view toward aborting the talks in the service of their own regional interests and ambitions. Accordingly support was extended to Riak Machar in order to send him along the same road as the one taken by John Garang. The road taken by John Garang led him into becoming an agent serving the interests of colonialism.

The information provided in this context by AL-INQADH AL-WATANI confirms that Riak Machar and his delegation comprising rebels Peter Abdullah (Sori) and Dhol (Ashwol) visited one of the neighboring states, where they met its president and its head of security.

The visit represents a preliminary arrangement for launching the process of transferring the leadership of the rebellion from John Garang to Riak Machar, particularly in that the meeting resulted in permission being given to Riak Machar to open an office in the guise of relief aid to serve the Unified Faction and its efforts to (?gain the leadership) of the rebels.

Proof that there is a foreign attempt to bring about the formation of a new rebel entity to succeed Garang's is provided by the obstruction of the peace efforts and the obstruction of Sudan's efforts, which are always directed towards achieving security and stability, particularly inasmuch as this foreign attempt is being made in the context of successes achieved by Sudan on the military, political and diplomatic fronts. But in spite of that attempt Sudan has succeeded in exposing the rebellion and taking the initiative away from it—thus Sudan holds the initiative against the colonialist forces which support the rebellion.

In conclusion we say that the attempt to establish a new leadership for the rebellion to succeed Garang, who has gone off without [word indistinct] is doomed to failure by virtue of it being foiled by the strong blows arising out of the solidarity of the people inside the country and their support for the revolution and the armed forces, which are prepared to make unlimited sacrifices in defense of the homeland and the people of the homeland.

Long live Sudan, a strong homeland standing in the face of foreign conspiracies. Success comes from God.

TNC Chairman Denies U.S. Charges of Terrorism

NC1512125093 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 7 Jan 93 p 1

[By 'Ali Mughaniyah from Khartoum]

[Text] Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Sudanese Transitional National Council [TNC], has said that his country will defy its enemies. Our enemies have imposed an economic and political blockade on Sudan to punish it for choosing an Islamic path, he said.

The TNC chairman denied U.S. allegations that Khartoum supports terror and exports revolution. In an interview with AL-SAFIR, Khalifah admitted Sudan's economic difficulties, saying that the people's awareness will help them emerge from this crisis.

Concerning Hala'ib, Khalifah said that it is Sudanese "even if a thousand fences are built around it." Khalifah declined to take a clear stand on the Gaza-Jericho agreement. He said Sudan wishes to steer a middle course between those who support the agreement and those who oppose it.

Asked if his country supports "terror," Khalifah said that there are no Egyptian or Algerian opposition groups in Sudan. What is taking place in Egypt is an internal affair. "The killers are Egyptians and so are the victims. The same thing goes for Algeria. Islamic trends existed in the world before Sudan came into existence. Why blame Sudan?" he said.

Khalifah was asked: You are Sudan's number two man. Who is number one? Al-Bashir or al-Turabi? He answered: "Sudan is ruled neither by al-Turabi nor al-Bashir. It is ruled by God."

The Sudanese official added: "The people's affairs are being run by revolutionary legitimacy with an Islamic face." He pointed out that there are all types of political affiliations in the TNC: There are communists, socialists, nationalists, and Muslim brothers, as well as the National Islamic Front.

Khalifah pointed out the strain between his country and the international financial organizations, which are controlled by the West and the United States. He accused the IMF and the World Bank of being hostile to small nations that refuse to be cowed by the United States.

The Sudanese official said that the Sudanese economy is in dire straits because of the blockade imposed on us. He added: "Our policy is to rely on ourselves and on the people's confidence in their revolution and their readiness to sacrifice for it."

Concerning the situation in the south, Khalifah said that this issue has transcended the local arena and is now in the international arena. "That is why its solution has been delayed for a while. Had we wanted to liberate the south by military means, we could have done so. We have forces that love jihad. But we want to use those forces for construction and development, not killing." Referring to mediation by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, he said: "Carter is still mediating. We do not want to close the door to mediation."

Khalifah denied that the Vatican has any role in fomenting the fighting in the south. He said: "We would love to see more Christians in the south than Muslims. We prefer Christianity to animism. I love Christ more than most Christians do."

The Sudanese official was emphatic about his country's relations with Iran. Material factors have nothing to do with our relations with Iran, he said. "This relationship is one of brotherhood and faith. They fight the Great Satan (America) and so do we."

Concerning the reason for discontinuing talks with Egypt over Hala'ib, the Sudanese official said: "Hala'ib belongs to Sudan and to its Sudanese inhabitants, even if it a thousand fences are built around it. We want to regain Hala'ib, but not by force. We are dealing with a Muslim country that is dear to us."

Concerning the ambiguous position adopted by Sudan on the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, Khalifah said that his country wants to have contacts with all Palestinian groups. "We want to preserve Islamic solidarity. It would by unwise and imprudent to reinforce intransigence and pour oil on the fire. We have said clearly that we support Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab soil and the implementation of UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. 'Arafat may err, but why blame Fatah?"

Foreign Minister Meets With UN Envoy

EA1512211093 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih received the visiting UN secretary general's special envoy for humanitarian affairs, Ambassador Vieri Traxler. In a statement to the press after the meeting, Ambassador Traxler said they discussed issues relating to cooperation between the Sudan and the UN in the field of relief.

TNA Amends Measures on Foreign Currency Dealing

EA1512193093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 15 Dec (SUNA)—The Transitional National Assembly (TNA) approved Tuesday [14 December] foreign currency dealing act amendment for 1993. The amendment provided for punishing the violators with not more than three years' imprisonment, fine or both sentences. The amendment also stipulates confiscation of the currency, instead of proposed punishment which was ranging between 10-20 years of a fine [sentence as received].

The report [as received] also recommended submission of an explanatory note to deferentiate between possessing of or dealing in foreign currency. [passage omitted].

High Council Raises Basic Salary, Sugar Prices

EA1512225593 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] President of the Republic Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, while addressing the mass media executives today, announced the recommendations of the high council for wages, which were approved, and that the basic salary would be increased as a grant from the government plus new allowances to be added to the basic salary, among which are job hazards, transport during leave and accommodation allowances.

He also announced new prices for sugar—30 pounds for the normal price and 70 pounds for the commercial price. The president expressed hope that the rest of the provinces would follow the example of Darfur State to eradicate illiteracy.

Bahrain

Shaykh 'Isa Delivers National Day Address

JN1612094293 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0645 GMT 16 Dec 93

["Text" of speech by Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, on Bahrain's national day anniversary]

[Excerpts] Manama, 16 Dec (WAKH)—Our dear people: Peace be upon you.

The glorious national day anniversary stands to all of us in this dear homeland as a renewed symbol of the march of serious action, stability, and welfare that characterizes the Bahraini national experiment. [passage omitted]

Dear citizens: Events proved that national achievements always require a security shield that protects them against various challenges and dangers, especially in our changing world. On the national level, Bahrain succeeded, praise be to God, in providing the best pillars of national security through its self-capabilities that depend, in the first place, on the efficiency of its qualified men and youth in this field, and through the firm and solid relations of cooperation it forged with sisterly and friendly states in the region and the world—relations that guarantee the joint interests of all parties.

We attach much importance in this stage to the development of strategic cooperation between the sisterly member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] in a manner that leads to a joint practical formula for joint security among the GCC states. This is, in fact, what all our sisterly peoples aspire to in order to safeguard their entities, stability, and the future of their generations. This will not be attained in a sufficient manner unless it is realized through their own capabilities and the GCC's joint commitment to realize this crucial objective based on self-reliance.

In addition to this objective, our peoples also aspire for closer economic coordination and for a joint Gulf market in this age of major economic blocs. We look forward to the GCC summit, which will convene this year under the patronage of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to realize these two close objectives; the strategic objective and the economic objective, in order to secure a joint starting point for the council and for its role in the Arab world and the world at a time when the Middle East region as whole is facing unprecedented changes. These changes urge us to coordinate collectively and to avoid separate steps, hoping that the current efforts will realize comprehensive and just peace to all parties, and that stability will prevail throughout the area. Undoubtedly, the GCC states' desire to develop joint confidence in a manner that consolidates the GCC entity guarantees its regional and international status and emphasizes its weight and role within the new order in the Middle East and the whole world.

As for the objective of breathing life into the joint Arab action, it is an objective that we will not relinquish and will remain our top priority whatever the obstacles might be. The human suffering of some sisterly Arab societies as a result of Arab division and (?previous) conflicts is something that concerns the sincere ones in our one nation. We have to heal the rift through all possible means. The challenge of peace urges us to do so more than the challenges of war, because peace should start among the Arabs themselves before it is realized with the others.

Dear citizens: Finally, we refer to what we began when we emphasized adherence to the achievements of the Bahraini national march and full loyalty to this secure and stable homeland, which is a gift from God in this changing world. This sincere commitment stands as the strongest constant before all the changes we have to deal with through vision and wisdom in order to make something good and blessed out of these changes, God willing, as we did throughout the march. From God we seek success, peace be upon you.

Amir Pardons 64 Exiled Nationals

JN1612075593 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 16 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, has issued a gracious emirian decree pardoning 64 Bahraini nationals who left the country as of 1980 and chose to live abroad after having engaged in acts and activities that violate the country's laws and committed crimes against the country's security and safety. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Views UN Resolution on Iran

LD1512221593 Tehran IRNA in English 2006 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—Bahraini Foreign Minsiter, Shaykh Muhammad bin-Mubarak, said in Manama today that the recent United Nation's resolution on the alleged abuse of human rights in Iran was issued in the pursuance of certain "political goals" rather than supporting human rights.

He also said that Bahrain's representative to the U.N. did not take part in the third U.N. General Assembly committee's session due to the same reason.

With 68 favoring, 22 opposing and 45 abstaining in its December 6th voting session, the committee issued a resolution against Islamic Republic of Iran.

Bin-Mubarak, who made the remark in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Bahrain, Javad Tork-Abadi in Manama today, hoped for growing solidarity and cooperation among regional countries based on their common interest and history.

Tork-Abadi, who was carrying a message from Iranian Foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati for Bahrain's foreign minister, expressed hope that mutual understanding and cooperation among regional states would lead to establishment of stability and security in the region.

The two sides also discussed Tehran-Manama ties, regional situation, the upcomming Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) session and issues of mutual interest at the meeting.

Kuwait

Iraqis Evacuated From Areas Near Border

LD1512200293 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission [UNIKOM] has begun evacuating Iraqis from areas situated on the Kuwaiti side of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, to which the security trench project is getting closer. UNIKOM spokesman 'Abd-al-Latif Kabbaj told KUNA that the evacuation of the Iraqis would continue for 14 days. He pointed out that the preliminary arrangements to evacuate the Iraqis under UNIKOM supervision had begun in Umm Qasr.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Latif Kabbaj stressed that the evacuation plan was aimed at transferring the properties of the Iraqis to other parts of Umm Qasr, in addition to the transferring of some infrastructure material. The UNIKOM spokesman added that the Iraqi authorities had agreed to the evacuation of the Iraqis in the Abdali region. Mr. Kabbaj underlined that the State of Kuwait had agreed and welcomed the evacuation plan in Umm Qasr under the supervision of UNIKOM forces.

A UN committee in charge of compensation has prepared a report, which it will hand to the United Nations soon concerning the evaluation of movable and immovable property in accordance with a previous Kuwaiti proposal concerning compensation for the Iraqis.

Yemen

Ex-Yemeni President's Nephew Killed in Syria

NC1612141893 Paris AFP in English 1333 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Sanaa, Dec 16 AFP—The nephew of the former South Yemeni president was murdered in Syria Wednesday, Yemeni television reported Thursday.

Hadi Ahmad Nasir—nephew of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, who was president of the ex-South Yemen before being overthrown in 1986—was murdered in the city of Latakia, the television said.

It said Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih discussed the case by telephone with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, but it did not say if the murder was politically motivated.

The body was to be sent home to Yemen later Thursday.

General Salih also telephoned his condolences to the victim's uncle in Damascus. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad recently began mediating to end a political crisis between Salih and Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Al-Bid has stayed in Aden, the capital of the former South Yemen, since August and has refused to return to Sanaa, the capital of united Yemen, until the government undertakes economic and government reform.

South Yemen and North Yemen united in 1990.

Al-Bid Confers With U.S., Eritrean Ambassadors

JN1512210493 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Today, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, received U.S. Ambassador in Sanaa Arthur Hughes. They discussed relations between the two friendly countries and ways of enhancing them. They also exchanged views on the current political situation. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid stressed the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation between our country and the United States in the service of the joint interests of the Yemeni and American peoples. He expressed his appreciation for U.S. eagerness to help our country overcome the challenges and difficulties hampering the national democratic march in our country.

The Presidential Council vice chairman also received Eritrean Ambassador in our country (Mahmud Jabra), who conveyed a letter to him from his brother Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki dealing with relations between the two friendly countries and issues of common interest. They also discussed the brotherly relations between our country and Eritrea and ways of promoting them. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid stressed the importance of promoting these relations to serve the joint interests of the two neighborly peoples and to stregnthen their brotherly ties. 'Ali Salim al-Bid asked the Eritrean ambassador to convey his greetings to Isayas Afewerki, wishing him good health and happiness and the brotherly Eritrean people progress and success.

Salih Receives PLO's 'Abbas Zaki, 'Arafat Note

JN1512204493 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received brother 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee, who conveyed a message to the president from his brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

The message deals with developments in the Palestine question, issues of interest to the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, and the Palestinian president's efforts to bring views close together to resolve the current political crisis in our country.

Reform Grouping's al-Zanadani on Ties With YSP

PM1512144893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Dec 93 pp1, 4

[Reports by Jamal Khashuqji in Jeddah, Faysal Makram in Sanaa, and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Aden: "Al-Zanadani Tells AL-HAYAH: Relations Between the Reform Grouping and the Socialist Party Are Good"]

[Excerpt] The national dialogue meetings in Yemen have been postponed until tomorrow, Wednesday. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zanadani, member of the Presidential Council and member of the Higher Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], the party led by House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, has stressed that his party's relations with the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] are "good." In a statement to AL-HAYAH, he denied that his party was closer to understanding the position of President ('Ali 'Abdallah Salih). He said: "The third partner (YRG) is closer to understanding the position of each of the two sides seriously and fairly." He added that "the YRG's relations with the YSP have been governed by acceptance of the dictates of the Shari'ah, the coalition, agreement on the constitutional amendments, and work for security and stability."

On the YRG's role in tackling the current crisis, he said that role is one of "bridging the views in a way that would preserve the higher interests and the nation's religion, unity, and constant principles."

He denied that the YRG is opposed to local government. He said: "We are for local administration and for expansion of the people's participation in the administration of their affairs but we are not for partition of Yemen into statelets and governments." That was a clear reference to the federation plan advocated by the YSP.

On the importance of resolving the current crisis and the YSP's call for the pursuit and trial of those accused of assassinating some of its members, al-Zanadani said that "security and stability are the most important pillars of the state. There is the framework of the five necessities in the Islamic Shari'ah: protection of religion, life, offspring, mind, and money. We are for comprehensive security for all people, individuals and institutions and people and state."

On the mention of the YRG's name in the case of the assassination operations against Socialists and the accusation against the YRG by a newspaper close to the YSP of involvement in these operations, he said: "The YRG does not recognize the lies launched to cause problems, which are not based on any evidence. The YRG staged numerous demonstrations and held huge conferences during which not a single glass was broken. In fact they were dominated by security, peace, mercy, and justice." He pointed to the outstanding security problems in Yemen, calling for them to be solved. He said: "The YRG believes in solving problems peacefully and is seeking to achieve security for all people."

Asked whether there is any concern that the Islamic tide in Yemen might grow, he said: "That is a strange question, because the Yemeni people are a Muslim people who adhere to their religion." Asked whether there are foreign pressures against the Islamic state plan espoused by the YRG, al-Zanadani said: "We are a people who adhere to their religion and the religious foundations revealed by God. We will not abandon any part of our religion lest we anger God. If those who are exerting the pressure understand the system of government in Islam and its fairness for all mankind, they will find no reason for their concern or for not cooperating to achieve stability and prosperity for all mankind." [passage omitted]

Tehran Radio Reports 120 Officers Executed

NC1512194993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The Iraqi regime has executed 120 Iraqi Army officers on charges of involvement in a failed coup attempt.

The Voice of the Iraqi People Radio said a number of Army officers, including the Iraqi Army's intelligence chief, have been arrested. The radio added that the Army barracks in Mosul and Karkuk were besieged several times by the Iraqi Presidential Guard forces, who arrested officers suspected of being involved in the failed coup attempt.

MKO Statement Blames Iran for RPG Attack on Bus

NC1512134493 Paris AFP in English 1321 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 15 (AFP)—A bus filled with members of the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] came under a rocket attack Wednesday in the Iraqi capital, but there were no casualties, the Mojahedin said.

Blaming Iran for the attack, it said two rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) were fired at the bus, which was carrying 50 members of the armed opposition group.

The RPGs missed the target and instead damaged a pedestrian bridge and a wall of Baghdad's al-Rasafi Scientific Club, said the group.

"The Mojahedin holds the Khomeyni regime's embassy and its diplomat-terrorists in Baghdad responsible for this criminal terrorist assault," it said in a statement sent to AFP.

'Clarification' on Situation in al-Sulaymaniyah

JN1512202293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1720 GMT 15 Dec 93

["Clarification" published in the newspaper KHABAT on the situation in al-Sulaymaniyah, and on news reports regarding this situation published by KURDISTAN WAY—on 15 December]

[Text] We have received the following clarification from a responsible source in our party: KURDISTAN WAY, which is published in Kurdish by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], did not publish in its 14 December issue the text of the statement issued by the Council of Ministers of the Kurdistan region on the sabotage clique's attack. Instead, the paper published a report on the city of al-Sulaymaniyah in which it distorted incidents and stands, and leveled accusations against our party organizations there. To clarify facts, we announce the following:

1. The measures taken to put an end to the sabotage clique's attack on 10 December did not constitute a fight between our party, the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK], and that clique, but a normal government action carried out by the [Kurdistan] region's government to put an end to the sabotage clique's attack on the 24th Brigade's headquarters on 10 December. The KURDISTAN WAY has depicted the whole issue in a different manner. It has falsely accused our party's organizations and forces in the region.

2. Despite the cables from brother Jalal [Talabani], the Council of Ministers, and the Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs, which called on the PUK's forces to cooperate and coordinate with our party's forces to put an end to a clique's attack on a government side, the stand of the brothers at the PUK branch in al-Sulaymaniyah was a negative stand, although the attack took place against an official government post.

3. KURDISTAN WAY should have reported incidents as they really occurred, in a logical way, ever since the sabotage clique's attack on 10 December. The distortion of facts will further exacerbate the situation, and will never serve the objective of achieving security, stability, and the supremacy of law, and of defending the government's dignity, its institutions, and regular forces.

4. KURDISTAN WAY has also carried reports on demonstrations and victims in al-Sulaymaniyah in a way which condemns our party. While regretting any conflict, we say that the confusion that took place in al-Sulaymaniyah was basically due to the actions of the aforementioned clique on the one hand, and the negative stand of the brothers at the PUK on the other. We believe that had the government authorities acted in a unified manner from the beginning, nothing would have happened in al-Sulaymaniyah. Moreover, on 14 December, the al-Sulaymaniyah governor made a call for a demonstration.

The sabotage clique used mortars, something which claimed innocent lives. This is an eloquent lesson to be learned for the future. Many people ask: If the government does not defend the 24th Brigade's headquarters these days, how will it defend the unified army of Kurdistan tomorrow? Is defense not a collective action? Is defending the legitimate authorities that we have established the responsibility of one party only, or is it not a joint responsibility? In light of this, we sincerely call for a thorough investigation of all that has taken place to prevent similar incidents. This is out of our concern for the unity of ranks and the joint defense of the region's political entity against any attacks, violation of the law, and encroachment on citizens' rights and security. We believe that the distortion of facts will not lead to success in any way.

Opposition Leaders on Differences, Weaknesses

JN1512213793 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 13 Dec 93 pp 32-36

[Report on interview with Iraqi National Congress, INC, Secretary Dr. 'Abd-al-Husayn Sha'ban, and INC executive council Deputy President Hani al-Fakiki by AL-WASAT correspondent Zaki Shihab; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] Critics of the Iraqi National Congress [INC] have proceeded to open the file of the INC, taking advantage of one of the INC leader's reported demand that Kuwait pay $500 million for the INC to declare its approval of the demarcation of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border in accordance with a UN Security Council resolution.

A delegation under Ahmad al-Jalabi, head of the INC Executive Council, visited Kuwait several weeks ago and met with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. After the visit, al-Jalabi said that the delegation had not raised the issue of financial support for the Iraqi opposition. He said that the delegation discussed with Kuwaiti officials a number of ways to promote bilateral cooperation, especially concerning the effort to topple the Baghdad regime, which did not approve the international demarcation of the border between Iraq and Kuwait.

Despite this denial, many questions about the INC's activities were raised, especially concerning what it has achieved in over a year since the beginning of its activity, besides sending delegations to visit major big powers and having pictures taken with officials there, and apart from the media activity, which has been confined to limited radio broadcasts and separate statements.

INC leaders admit that the U.S. promises, which have been given at the highest levels, have not materialized. They indicate that the establishment of a "safe haven" in the south, "bringing Saddam to justice for his crimes," and working to provide an appropriate international atmosphere for toppling his regime remained slogans and that nothing noteworthy has been achieved. They noted that criticism is being leveled against the INC leaders and institutions, especially concerning the undue dependence on U.S. support and expecting too much from U.S. policies. Some INC leaders are being accused of making decisions single-handedly and controlling funding sources and disbursement decisions. Some opposition leaders threatened to resign if the INC does not witness "an internal uprising to reunify the ranks of the opposition and agree on a clear and straightforward policy." [passage omitted]

INC Secretary Dr. 'Abd-al-Husayn Sha'ban said that there are different views regarding the performance of the Executive Council and the INC in general, despite the fact that the INC achieved some successes, especially on the foreign scene. He noted the the INC acquired international recognition and met with a number of officials in influential states, especially the UN Security Council member states. However, the INC failed in its Arab and regional relations. He added: I can say that it has not achieved what is required in this regard. In fact, he noted, it is still isolated from the average Iraqi citizens, and it is still heavily isolated from the average Arab citizens. Sha'ban said: Therefore, if the INC wants to extricate itself from the current situation and open wider horizons, it should strengthen its ties with the average Iraqi citizens, not in Kurdistan only, but also in the depth of Iraq, specifically in Baghdad. This has been a point of weakness which appeared during the uprising of 1991. He noted that although the uprising covered 14 governorates, it was aborted because of known circumstances.

Sha'ban continued: From this premise, I say that the wager on the foreign factor did not get us to the required conclusion. Therefore, greater importance must be attached to domestic action. Domestic, foreign, regional, and international factors must be benefited from.

[Shihab] Does getting to what you are calling for require a change in the INC leadership itself or a change of its mode of action?

[Sha'ban] What the INC achieved last year is not sufficient to effect a change in Iraq. The INC needs to improve its performance. It must be turned into a real and democratic institution that advocates change and allows for the interaction of views, respect for others' views, and respect for the right to be different. However, the need to continue the march should be emphasized.

So far, the steps that have been taken are slow and insufficient to meet the Iraqi people's aspirations for a change.

[Shihab] Can we conclude that there is single-handedness in the decisionmaking process within the INC?

[Sha'ban] We have not been accustomed to exercising democracy within or outside the INC or within or outside the INC's opposition. In addition, the sort of dictatorship that has prevailed in Iraq for long years is reflected in the opposition itself. It sometimes shows narrow-mindedness and nervousness, and its members exchange accusations, provocations and brand one another with treason. For the INC and the opposition to move forward, such frameworks should be abandoned and wider ones adopted.

[Shihab] It has been said that the mystery surrounding the source of financing for the INC still poses a major threat to its unity. Do you agree? And why do you not put an end to that argument?

[Sha'ban] The INC has not officially received any money from any source. Ahmad al-Jalabi was asked several times about the source of the money. He said: I am financing the INC. He added that some people deposited some money with him and that he placed the money at the disposal of the INC. Dr. al-Jalabi also denied that he had received money from a foreign source. Regardless of this, I personally believe that an issue of such importance deserves every attention from all the opposition parties. There are foreign interferences affecting all sides in the opposition. The financial factor constitutes one such interference.

[Shihab] What about differences among the members of the INC leadership?

[Sha'ban] Yes, differences come from intellectual and political pluralism. There are differences over the continued economic blockade on Iraq, over border demarcation, and over bombing some Iraqi targets that would injure civilians. Intellectual and political differences within the INC are natural, and the active forces within it approve changing or toppling the regime. They also voice their belief in a democratic and federal system that respects human rights. Differences over international resolutions, for example, are another problem. While some people believe that it is necessary to support international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, others believe that many resolutions are unjust and will harm both Iraqi present and future sovereignty. Our conflict with the regime in Baghdad is bitter and lengthy. Undoubtedly, some people believed we were about to change the regime, and accordingly, they behaved very proudly and fatally deluded themselves.

[Shihab] Is the INC threatened with dissolution if such a change does not occur?

[Sha'ban] Any institution can be dissolved if it does not produce results.

[AL-WASAT introduction to al-Fakiki interview] Hani al-Fakiki, deputy president of the INC Executive Council, acknowledges that "one of the reasons for the INC's weakness is its isolation from the average Iraqis, not to mention the fact that most INC leaders believed that the harmony with the interests of the West, some countries of the region, and the INC and its objectives would bring about many changes. This made the INC place all its bets on the West and others. Instead, they should have pursued a rational approach, sought to promote the national interest, and striven to use this temporary harmony of interests in the interest of the Iraqi people.

"Some brothers still insist that the West's moral interests lie in the elimination of Saddam Husayn. I do not agree with many people who hold this view. I only believe in tangible interests. The interests of the West required the elimination of this regime at one point in time. For the time being, I believe that the West wants to postpone the elimination of this regime. Perhaps, the elimination of this regime is no longer on the agenda of Western powers. The West now wants to maintain pressure on this regime to ensure Western interests in the region. This is deemed a better option for Western states, particularly in the aftermath of the acceleration of the peace process between the Arabs and Israel. The Iraqi opposition forces have thus far failed to actively influence the domestic situation in Iraq in general, and in Baghdad in particular.

"None of the acts carried out by the INC has posed any real threat to the regime. They only produced media harassment of the regime, disturbing it at best. In none of its policies has the INC ever taken the initiative. It has always reacted to developments. I believe that the Baghdad regime has regained the reins of initiative for the past few months. It is active on the regional and international scenes, and even on the domestic front as well. This requires the INC to reconsider its political discourse, its slogans, its courses of action, its structures, and even its leaders and officials. It is necessary for the INC to retake the reins of initiative."

[Shihab] What are the threats that could bring about the fragmentation of the INC?

[Al-Fakiki] Political rigidity. Hence, the INC must reconsider its political discourse. But, if it remains hostage to a single political perspective, a single political wager, and a single political performance, it will perish.

[Shihab] If the current form of the INC is maintained, can the INC survive for another year?

[Al-Fakiki] Yes. But, its performance will suffer.

[Shihab] What about the penetration of the INC by the Iraqi regime?

[Al-Fakiki] In politics in general, it is difficult to ensure complete immunity against penetrations. The latest thing we have heard in this regard concerns the Mosad's penetration of the PLO, which might, for its part, have made some penetrations within the Israeli organs. This could happen with the INC. At present, we are unable to determine the penetration and where it lies.

[Shihab] Do you have any doubts in this regard?

[Al-Fakiki] Yes, there are doubts, questions, and suspicions within and outside the INC. We must remember that the Saddam Husayn regime wants the INC to be discredited before the people so it will lose their trust. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Receives Mauritanian Party Delegation

JN1512204893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Comrade Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today met with a delegation of the Mauritanian Avant-Garde Party led by (Khatri El Taleb Jaddou).

The talks addressed ties between the two parties and pan-Arab issues.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Rabin Said Concerned About 'Arafat's Condition

TA1512191593 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Announcer-read report followed by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is concerned about Yasir 'Arafat's mental condition. At the same time he directed Israel's representatives to continue concentrating their efforts on the PLO chairman only. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen has learned, meanwhile, that Prime Minister Rabin intends to appoint Knesset Member [MK] Efrayim Sne as head of the delegation for talks with the Palestinians in Washington:

[Begin Rosen recording] Rabin has been receiving reports regarding 'Arafat's difficult condition for the last several weeks. Approximately two weeks ago we reported for the first time the contents of a report which defined 'Arafat as somebody who is losing his wits. This was followed by the bleak reports of Jacques Neriya, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, and Shim'on Peres, who described 'Arafat as nervous, dejected, and tired.

Among Rabin's associates there are differences of opinion. At least one source who is very close to the prime minister has serious doubts regarding the ability of doing business with the PLO chairman. This source recommended that Rabin refrain from meeting 'Arafat in Cairo, just as he recommended in September that Rabin refrain from traveling to the signing ceremony in Washington. Yitzhaq Rabin nevertheless believes that 'Arafat is the only PLO member who can deliver the goods. Rabin defines other meetings—such as a possible meeting between Peres and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] in Paris tomorrow—as courtesy meetings.

Meanwhile it appears that the prime minister will apparently appoint MK Efrayim Sne as head of the delegation for talks with the Palestinians in Washington in place of Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein. [end recording]

Dismisses Reports on 'Arafat's Health

TA1612155293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Report by party affairs correspondent Sefi Hendler]

[Text] At a meeting of the Labor Bureau this afternoon, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin dismissed all the reports about PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's poor mental health. Rabin finished his address a short time ago, and then proceeded to answer journalists' questions. He was asked about the postponement in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and whether the dispute over control of the border crossings could bring about the collapse of the entire agreement, and here is what he replied:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I believe both sides are committed to the agreement on the Declaration of Principles. I believe PLO Chairman 'Arafat wants the agreement. He is the dominant figure in the PLO and the man who makes the decisions. I hope we will find a solution.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are you worried about 'Arafat's poor mental health?

[Rabin] I think all this talk is not serious. I sat in a meeting with him and, from his point of view, what he said made a lot of sense. It was unacceptable to me, but it made a lot of sense. [end recording]

Rabin Calls on PLO to 'Reconsider' Positions

TA1512143493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that the Palestinians should reconsider their positions, which were presented to him during his recent meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. The prime minister briefed reporters during a tour of the Gaza Strip today. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik has just filed this report:

[Begin recording] [Semrik] Speaking during a tour of southern Gaza, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said a short while ago that if an agreement with the PLO is reached in 10 days to three weeks, we would still be able to meet the date set for the implementation of the Gaza and Jericho agreement. Rabin was speaking at a news conference in Rafah:

[Rabin] I am convinced that we can reach a [comprehensive] agreement if indeed the agreement on the Declaration of Principles—including its various components, as understood in Oslo—is implemented in practice.

[Semrik] Rabin stressed that Israel will insist on maintaining control over the external borders of Gaza and Jericho, and on its responsibility for security checks at the border crossings of the Rafah terminal and the Jordan River bridges. There are still disagreements on these points, Rabin said.

[Rabin] I believe there is a mutual commitment by both sides, not just a one-sided commitment. I hope that the Palestinian side will reconsider its stands, as expressed on 12 December in the meeting in Cairo.

[Semrik] Rabin was speaking at a news conference attended by dozens of correspondents and television crews from Israel and abroad. Regarding the issue of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees who returned to Israel today, Rabin said that Israel will not hesitate to use tough measures, as he put it, against the returning deportees should it reach the conclusion that some of them are involved in terror activity.

[Rabin, in English] We will not hesitate to take tough measures against them if we have the slightest suspicion that they intend or are involved in it. [end recording]

Sources: No 'Arafat Meeting if Demands Remain

TA1612090293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Dec 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Aluf Ben and Tzvi Zrahya]

[Excerpt] Israel is demanding that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat drop the extremist demands he made in his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo on Sunday [12 December] as a condition for renewing the negotiations on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

'Arafat demanded that IDF outposts along the border with Jordan and between the Gaza Strip and Egypt be demilitarized and that the border be guarded by joint patrols comprising an Israeli, Palestinian, and international force.

Israeli sources said that there have been no contacts with the PLO on the resumption of the negotiations, although 'Arafat spoke positively in Europe about resuming the talks.

They said that the contacts with the PLO will apparently be held next week, but that the gap in the basic positions of the two sides is still deep. If 'Arafat does not moderate his positions, there will be no point in holding another meeting with Rabin next week, as was planned by the two in Sunday's meeting.

Rabin reiterated his tough stand on the PLO yesterday. "For us, external security is the main issue. It is inconceivable for the IDF not to be deployed along the borders with Egypt and Jordan. The IDF is responsible for external security," Rabin said in response to motions for the agenda in the Knesset.

According to Rabin: "We are responsible for external security. That is something we have insisted on and will continue to insist on. Some 60 percent of those passing through Rafah are Palestinians and only 40 percent are Israelis and tourists. Whoever passes through the border crossings and across the bridges can reach Tel Aviv. It would be inconceivable for us not to have supervision.

"Wherever necessary, we will make several settlements into a bloc in order to give the residents security. Some of the settlements were set up for political and not security reasons. We decided to leave settlements, including those to which we were opposed, intact. There is an agreement that all the settlements will remain where they are, and we will be responsible for providing maximum security," Rabin said. [passage omitted]

Report on Rabin Message to al-Asad Denied

TA1512192293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The prime minister's bureau denies the report appearing in Beirut's AL-NAHAR saying that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has conveyed to Syrian President al-Asad a message from Mr. Rabin according to which Israel is willing to withdraw from the Golan Heights and south Lebanon. Our political correspondent was told by the prime minister's bureau that the report is not true and that the prime minister did not deliver such a message to Secretary Christopher.

Rabin: Jordan Valley Is Border Defense Line

TA1512193393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening met representatives of the Jordan Valley settlements and told them that judging by security criteria, the Jordan Valley is a defense line along the border with Jordan, and only the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will control Israel's external borders.

Regarding the settlers' demand to preserve the territorial continuity between the Jewish settlements in the Jordan Valley, Mr. Rabin said that at the present time we are discussing with the PLO only the interim arrangement, and when we will discuss the permanent arrangement everything will be open. This is reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Coordinator of Activities in Territories Queried

TA1412201293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Dec 93 pp 1, 18

[Interview with Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories and member of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Palestinians, by Zaki Abu-al-Halawah and Muhammad Abu-Khudayr; on 13 December, place not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-QUDS] What is the Israeli stance regarding the bridges and the crossing points?

[Rothschild] Regarding the bridges with Jordan and the Rafah crossing point, the Declaration of Principles provides for joint coordination. As for security, since the bridges are part of external security, then we have to be responsible for them. In order to facilitate matters for the Palestinians, we are saying that there should be coordination between us and the Palestinians. Those Palestinians crossing the bridges from Jordan will first pass through Palestinian police. At the same time we will responsible for the bridges.

This problem was discussed in Oslo. We explained that we will not give in on this issue and will not discuss it at this time. The Declaration of Principles calls for joint coordination, but we will not relinquish control over the crossings. I know that this will not satisfy the residents of the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

[AL-QUDS] Do you believe the 10 days agreed on by Rabin and 'Arafat will be enough for resolving the pending issues between the two sides?

[Rothschild] I do not know, but I believe that they suffice for making a decision. If a decision is made, it is possible to find a solution in one day. The issue is not that of negotiations but of decisionmaking.

The Americans and the Egyptians have said that they do not accept the Palestinian viewpoint relating to the borders. When we met with 'Arafat yesterday, the only issue raised was that of the borders. There was no point in discussing other problems. The crossings are a problem, but we cannot address it without agreeing on the borders.

If President Yasir 'Arafat does not wish to be called a second Antoine Lahd, it will in his interest that we assume responsibility for the external borders. Otherwise, he will be forced to open fire on Palestinians who cross into Israel.

[AL-QUDS] On the eve of the delay in implementing the accord, how do you view the frustration and concern among Palestinians?

[Rothschild] I realize that the Palestinians are disappointed, but we are not responsible for that. [passage omitted]

[AL-QUDS] What is your stance regarding international supervision over the elections that are expected to be held in the occupied territories?

[Rothschild] International supervision is one of the slogans of the previous stage. Today, the media can say whether these elections are democratic or not. Four hundred correspondents in Gaza can relay within seconds what is happening to all parts of the world. The intensive presence of newsmen is more effective than that of political observers. I believe that the people are the ones who can decide whether the elections are democratic or not.

[AL-QUDS] Will the deportees be returned?

[Rothschild] If calm prevails and the situation gets normal, it might be possible to return the deportees. This is subject to negotiations. Prime Minister Rabin met yesterday with the deportee Akram Haniyah and told him: I was the one who deported you, and today we are meeting.

[AL-QUDS] What about the antiquities that have been discovered in the occupied territories during the occupation years?

[Rothschild] They are subject to negotiations and agreement must be reached over them. There is an international law and everything is subject to negotiations. No decision has been made on this matter.

Egyptian Envoy Urges Accord's Implementation

NC1612091493 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni in Tel Aviv by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ramadan] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Basyuni] Thank you.

[Ramadan] Observers' attention is now focused on Israel in light of the fast developments in the Middle East peace process following U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour and the Rabin-'Arafat meeting. Rabin has recently made statements that some may interpret as indicating an Israeli desire to delay the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement. From your contacts, what is the true situation?

[Basyuni] It is that both parties want to implement the Gaza- Jericho First Agreement, since its implementation is in the interest of both parties. So, both parties have an interest in effecting the agreement on its specified date. The important thing is to complete the implementation before 13 April 1994. This is the important deadline. The start of the implementation may be delayed by one, two, or three weeks, but more important than this is to implement it before 13 April. [passage omitted]

[Ramadan] Do you think a delay may harm the situation in the occupied Arab territories?

[Basyuni] Undoubtedly, any delay is bound to harm the general atmosphere. The delay will undoubtedly give the enemies of peace a chance to move to prove that they are right. So, it is extremely important to speed up the implementation of this agreement so as not to give the enemies of peace the chance to move. The longer the delay, the more the violence and counterviolence will be.

[Ramadan] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has stated that if some movements, like Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], win in the scheduled election, Israel will not be committed to implementing the Declaration of Principles. How significant is this statement?

[Basyuni] I believe that if progress is made regarding the implementation of the agreement, if there is a change on the ground, and if the Palestinians feel there is a real change on the ground, the advocates of peace will inevitably win the election. The longer we take and the more the peace efforts stumble, the more popular the antipeace camp will be. The more progress and breakthroughs we make, the more popular the peace camp will become and the more support the Palestinians will give to this agreement. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Rabinovich on Aspin Resignation

TA1612071293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, by Arye Golan in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Is Les Aspin's resignation a loss for Israel?

[Rabinovich] It is a loss in the sense that Aspin was a friend of Israel during his term in the Senate, as well as his term as secretary of defense. Today's administration is friendly toward Israel, and I believe that the new secretary of defense, when he is appointed, will become part of a national security team that sees eye to eye with Israel and, following the President's instructions, will conduct a policy that is friendly toward us.

[Golan] What kind of relations did Aspin have with Yitzhaq Rabin, our prime minister and also defense minister? The two met recently. Was he very positive?

[Rabinovich] He was both very positive and very friendly. Their relations go back many years, I believe to the time the prime minister served as an ambassador here and later in his role as defense minister, when Les Aspin served as head of the Armed Services Committee. Their friendship was a well founded one.

[Golan] In an interview only last Sunday [12 December], Aspin said he is opposed to Jonathan Pollard's release from prison.

[Rabinovich] Yes, I know his personal stand on this issue, but it was a specific stand on this particular issue and not necessarily connected to his attitude toward Israel in general.

[Golan] Ambassador Rabinovich, do you know anything about the person currently mentioned as the main candidate, Admiral Bob Inman?

[Rabinovich] Look, this name was mentioned on the evening news. I believe it is too soon for us to speculate, based on very initial reports.

[Golan] What do you know about him? Do you know him?

[Rabinovich] As I said, I would not want to speculate about unsubstantiated rumors. Let us wait until an official appointment is made, and then I will comment on the person mentioned.

Vilna'i Views IDF Commander-Hamas Meeting

TA1512124993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Dec 93 p A2

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, had no prior knowledge of the meeting between Brigadier General Doron Almog, commander of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the Gaza Strip, and members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. It has been learned that Gen. Vilna'i learned about it only after the fact, but he did not criticize Almog.

Sources close to Vilna'i noted that IDF commanders in the Gaza Strip meet Palestinian leaders on a daily basis, and that there was nothing wrong with Almog's meeting with members of Hamas.

At the same time, Vilna'i will in future ask Almog to tell him in advance about similar meetings. [passage omitted]

A check conducted by HA'ARETZ shows that although Almog spoke about meeting several Hamas activists, he actually met with some minor activists.

It has been learned that other officers in the Gaza Strip have also met Hamas activists, but these were men detained by the IDF rather than activists in the field.

Tzomet's Knesset Member Moshe Peled yesterday demanded that Gen. Almog be removed from his job becase of these meetings.

ITIM reports: Hamas denied that some of its leaders recently met with Gen. Almog. A leaflet issued in the Gaza Strip noted that Almog's remarks were totally unfounded and made up.

According to the leaflet, there have not been and there will never be meetings between Hamas members and IDF officers because they are the enemy, and the enemy must be fought.

The leaflet went on to say that the statement that Hamas would rather have Israel's rule over 'Arafat's was absolutely untrue and fabricated Israeli propaganda. It concluded by suggesting to Gen. Almog not to fabricate similar fallacies in the future.

IDF Pamphlet Details Rules for Handling Settlers

TA1612061093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has the authority to arrest Jewish settlers in certain cases and to impose a curfew which applies to Israelis, as well as Palestinians. This is stated in a pamphlet which has been distributed by the Army to commanders in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

It is entitled: The Procedures for Imposing Law and Order With Respect to Jewish Settlers in the Territories. It says the Army has the authority to arrest rioting settlers in certain cases and that an IDF commander in the territories has the authority to impose a curfew on settlers, as well as Palestinians, out of operational military considerations.

The pamphlet was prepared by the attorney general, the office of the IDF's judge advocate general, and the Israel Police. It explains the division of authority between the Army and the police and the manner in which a complaint against a settler for disturbing the peace should be submitted by the Army to the police. The pamphlet also explains what constitutes reasonable force, when it should be used against settlers, and in what cases they should be arrested and handed over to the police. Up till now, the Army has tended to regard breaches of the peace by settlers as a matter for the police and has been criticized on this account in the past few weeks.

Hay Veqayam Group To Avoid Army Service, Taxes

TA1612092793 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Dec 93 p 2

[Report by Tzvi Singer]

[Text] The Hay Veqayam organization, headed by former Jewish underground member Yehuda 'Etzyon, issued a pamphlet yesterday calling on Israelis not to serve in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and not to pay taxes.

The pamphlet says: "We have decided not to support the establishment of a Palestinian state; therefore, we will no longer serve in the reserves as long as the IDF has the task of implementing government policy aimed at uprooting the people of Israel from their land. We will donate our tax money to the struggle for the people and the state and not to the government. We will not pay the price of our enemy's establishing its state on our land."

IDF Completes Infrastructure Work in Lebanon

TA1612123493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Dec 93 p A8

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces], in cooperation with Lebanese contractors and the Northern Command's engineering unit, completed wide-ranging infrastructure work in south Lebanon a few days ago. The work included paving new roads, improving existing roads, and expanding outposts. The work cost 10 million shekels, and the budget was approved by Major General Amnon Shahaq, the deputy chief of staff.

Senior military sources said the work shows that the IDF is deepening its stronghold in southern Lebanon and that there is no intention of leaving the area, at least not in the coming year.

Defense sources said that Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in south Lebanon, pressured the IDF to increase the civilian aid to the residents of the security zone, and all the work was approved by order of the Northern Command.

The IDF gives the liaison unit in south Lebanon an annual budget, which is updated from time to time. This year's budget was $20 million, of which $15 million was earmarked for the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and $5 million for civilian aid. The funds for the infrastructure work were taken from this budget.

In the past year, in view of the rise in terrorism in south Lebanon, it was decided to improve the defense of the inhabitants of the security zone. At the same time, senior Northern Command officers and senior defense officials promised the leadership of the local population that any agreement reached between Israel and Lebanon will not leave them defenseless. In fact, Israel promised to look after the 200,000 inhabitants of the security zone.

At the same time, there is a constant need to fortify the IDF and SLA in the security zone because of the rise in terrorist attacks. On this basis, the IDF decided to carry out the following wide-ranging infrastructure work:

- IDF and SLA outposts in all sectors were fortified.
- New roads were paved, diverting the main traffic away from the security zone, with the aim of making it harder to carry out Hizballah terrorist actions.
- Lebanese contractors, in cooperation with the Northern Command's engineering unit, paved new roads.
- New roads were paved along a 20-km stretch in the Litar [name as transliterated] mountain ridge near the Jazzin enclave.
- A new road was paved in the al-Tayyibah area.
- —Dozens of roads were upgraded in the Bint Jubayl region.
- —Civilian aid to residents of the security zone was increased, roads were improved, and infrastructure work was carried out inside the villages.

A defense source said last night that "there is no intention of leaving the security zone in the near future. Our hold on the region is firm, and we are providing full backing and support for the inhabitants of south Lebanon."

Hamas Deportees Return; Minister Ramon Comments

TA1512132993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Today, 197 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees returned to Israel, while 18 stayed behind in Lebanon. A demonstration of the right-wing movements, headed by Likud Knesset Member Tzahi Hanegbi, was staged at the Kfar Yuval junction. The demonstrators blocked the road with their bodies in an attempt to prevent the passage of six busses carrying the deportees. They were evacuated by the police. Four other buses were later diverted to alternative routes.

Speaking at the Knesset a short while ago, Minister Hayim Ramon said that deportees who will not pledge not to engage in terror activities will not be released, and will remain in prisons. Responding to motions to the Knesset agenda on the issue of the deportees' return, Minister Ramon said that persons against which evidence was compiled while they were in Lebanon will be put on trial or placed under administrative detention. At the same time he noted that in Israel no one is tried for his ideology, only for his deeds.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that during the stormy Knesset debate today, Minister Ramon charged that the Likud was seeking to establish a small Bosnia in the territories when it spread the settlements in the heart of the Arab population to intensify friction between Israelis and Arabs.

Envoy Criticizes 'Arafat's Praise of Rabin

JN1512193893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Palestinian ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim has criticized the statements made by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the British House of Commons yesterday. In these statements, 'Arafat commended Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's courage, and described him as a great man.

'Abd-al-Rahim, Fatah Central Committee member and a supporter of the peace process, said that the attitude of our people and their leadership toward Rabin does not jibe with the epithets used by the Palestinian president to characterize Rabin. This is because all Palestinians, be they inside or outside the occupied territories, are well aware of what Rabin is doing and of the role he has been constantly playing with regard to the occupation of the territories, the breaking of bones, and forcing an Israeli version of peace on us, he argued.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that lavishing praise on Rabin by some Palestinian leaders, using epithets that do not characterize him and his conduct, confuses the Palestinian people and aggravates differences between Palestinian factions and their national leadership at a time when we are in dire need of unity around the national stand.

Abu-Nuwar: PLO Economic Accord 'Did Not Fail'

JN1512183393 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar told the Lower House of Representatives, which demanded a government statement on a number of issues, that the economic agreement between the government and the PLO did not fail but that the PLO was facing difficult times as a result of the heavy burdens it is bearing in building the self-rule authority.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar said Mr. 'Arafat has promised that he will discuss the economic agreement with Jordan following his current visit to Britain. Dr. Abu-Nuwar said the government will make a statement on the peace process when the prime minister returns from his current visit to Japan.

Committee To Resist Normalization Planned

JN1612110093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Dec 93 pp 24, 19

[Excerpt] Amman, QUDS PRESS—Jordanian parties and public figures have approved a plan to set up a popular committee to resist normalization of Jordanian-Israeli relations and Palestinian refugees' settlement in Jordan and other Arab countries.

Sources from the committee, whose sponsors named "The Jordanian National Committee to Resist Submission and Normalization" said that seven [as published] Jordanian parties—the Jordanian Communist Party, the Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Islamic Action front which is backed by the Muslim Brotherhood Group, the Jordanian Democratic Party [not further identified], the Pan-Arab Action Front, and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party—and more than 100 personalities, including former and present members of parliament, journalists, writers, and politicians opposed to the Declaration of Principles agreements reached on the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks of the talks with Israel, have prepared a paper discussing the plan to set up the committee. [passage omitted]

Government on 'Arafat, Christopher Visits

JN1512205393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Dec 93

["Government's statement" on the recent visits by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Jordan, read by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, at the Jordanian House of Representatives on 15 December—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies: Following is the government's statement on the recent visits by His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State to Jordan:

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, paid a brief visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from 5-6 December. During the visit, Mr. 'Arafat held talks with His Majesty King Husayn. During his stay, he also met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. His Majesty King Husayn's talks with the Palestinian president dealt with the peace process, especially the negotiations on the Israeli withdrawal and the beginning of the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. His majesty the king listened to a briefing on the obstacles facing those negotiations. His majesty stressed Jordan's full support for the Palestinian people's acquisition of their legitimate rights over their national soil. His Majesty King Husayn also stressed Jordan's eagerness for a genuine coordination among the concerned Arab parties, especially the Jordanian and Palestinian sides. He expressed Jordan's readiness to extend all forms of possible support to help the Palestinian brothers restore their rights. Earlier, his majesty the king visited Damascus and Cairo to exchange views and consultations with the Syrian and Egyptian presidents to cement and strengthen the Arab position through coordination of efforts among the Arab parties to the peace process.

It should be emphasized that his majesty the king's contacts with his brother Arab leaders focused on supporting the Arab position. His majesty the king stressed Jordan's commitment to a comprehensive solution. He indicated that it is impossible for Jordan to take separate steps with respect to the peace process. The Syrian and Egyptian presidents expressed their determination to promote bilateral relations with Jordan. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad responded to the Jordanian desire to hold a meeting of the Higher Jordanian-Syrian Committee. His Excellency President Husni Mubarak showed a similar response with respect to the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Committee. We hope that the two committees will meet soon to normalize and promote bilateral relations with the two fraternal countries in all fields.

With respect to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent visit to Jordan, the visit is part of the U.S. role in the peace process and the U.S. Administration's constant contacts with all parties to the peace process, which started at the Madrid conference. This tour was the first by the U.S. secretary after the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles last September. Obviously, the main objective of the tour was to advance the peace process on all tracks, especially the Palestinian and Syrian tracks, and to reach an agreement on the holding of the next round of bilateral negotiations.

The talks with the U.S. secretary focused on the peace process, especially, with respect to Jordan's stand on the need for a comprehensive solution. Various aspects of bilateral Jordanian-U.S. relations were also discussed.

Regarding the peace process, His Majesty King Husayn and his highness the crown prince clarified Jordan's clear-cut and well-known position on the need to bring about a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace based on Security Council Resolutions No. 242 and No. 338. They also explained the need for such a peace to end the suffering of the sons of this region—a suffering which has been going on for long decades as a result of the continued conflict. His Majesty King Husayn stressed Jordan's clear commitment to advancing the peace process to achieve its goals, particularly the national rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil, proceeding from Jordan's firm position that the Palestine question is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

His majesty also affirmed that a final peace would be achieved only after reaching an agreement on all issues under discussion and that the only possible settlement is the one that can achieve justice in an honorable manner and be accepted and safeguarded by peoples.

The U.S. secretary of state expressed his appreciation for Jordan's position on and its role in the peace process and conveyed a message to his majesty the king from U.S. President Clinton stressing the U.S. Administration's commitment to continuing its role in the peace process. The president also pledged to work directly to make it successful. The U.S. secretary of state voiced his understanding of the importance Jordan attaches to comprehensive solution. He also stressed determination to work in this direction and pointed out that the administration will make efforts to promote negotiations on the various tracks in order to reach a comprehensive settlement.

Christopher also touched on the importance he attaches to the economic dimensions and their ability to create a climate that can preserve peace in the region. A detailed discussion was held on Jordanian-U.S. relations, particularly economic issues, foremost of which is the issue of easing the burdens Jordan is facing as a result of its indebtedness, in light of the understanding the United States expressed through President Clinton himself regarding the need to ease these burdens. Various alternatives were also tackled, including the possibility of intensifying U.S. endeavors and contacts to urge the other parties involved to respond and ease these burdens.

The issue of the siege to which al-'Aqabah is being exposed gained special interest during the negotiations, and the various negative repercussions of this issue on the Jordanian economy were also explained. Christopher expressed his belief in the urgent need to solve this problem and admitted its difficult repercussions on Jordan. He promised to discuss this issue seriously with competent authorities in the U.S. Administration to end the problem as soon as possible. He also pledged to make efforts within the administration and with other countries to provide as much economic aid as possible for Jordan. He also expressed appreciation for the burdens our country is shouldering as a result of the tension the region experienced. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Released German, Frenchman Arrive From Baghdad

JN1612122593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16-17 Dec p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Marka—The last two known western prisoners in Iraq flew to Amman Wednesday [15 December], one day after they were released from the Abu Gharib prison in Baghdad upon the orders of President Saddam Husayn.

The two, German Kai Sondermann, 28 and French Jean-Luc Barriere, 25, were handed over to German troubleshooter Hans-Juergen Wischeunsky and French Gaulist official Serge Bordevais respectively.

The two European officials met with Iraqi officials and Mr. Wischeunsky drove to the central Iraqi city of Takrit to meet and personally thank Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for the release of Mr. Sondermann who, Mr. Wischeunsky said, was an innocent victim of the conflict and "not an enemy of Iraq."

"We drove to Takrit were we met with the Iraqi president," said Mr. Wischnewski upon his arrival at the Marka airport aboard a Jordanian police helicopter from the border along with Mr. Sondermann and the head of the Middle East department of the German foreign ministry, Dr. Herman Bartles, a former German ambassador to Jordan.

The release of Mr. Sondermann and Mr. Barriere comes after last Friday's release of three Britons who flew out of Baghdad with former British Prime Minister Edward Heath.

Mr. Sondermann and Mr. Barrier were arrested in separate incidents at the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border by Iraqi security men.

Mr. Sondermann, a law student at the University of Munster, was sentenced to eight years in prison on June 6. He was arrested on May 28.

"We are happy that a sentence of eight years turned into no more than 200 days," said Mr. Wischeunsky.

"I was never mistreated, nor were any of the foreign prisoners," said Mr. Sondermann. "The Iraqi prisoners did not always have it so well, however," he added.

"We are just happy to have him back," said Mr. Sondermann's mother who flew to Amman with her husband on Monday to meet her son upon his arrival.

Mr. Wischeunsky, a member of Germany's Social Democrats who delivered a letter to President Saddam from German Chancellor Helmut Kohl appealing for Mr. Sondermann's release, stressed that his mission to Baghdad was "purely humanitarian."

"We were not asked for any commitment in return for Mr. Sondermann's release," added Mr. Wischensky.

Commenting on his meeting with President Saddam, Wischensky said Iraq reiterated its commitment for "full compliance with United Nations resolutions" on a condition that "they would not be humiliating."

He said the Iraqi explained to him the "worsening" conditions resulting from international sanctions imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"The average Iraqi citizen not to mention the sick people are suffering greatly from the prevailing conditions," he said. "We have good hope to find a quick solution to this problem."

Mr. Sondermann's and Barriere's releases were widely seen as part of Iraq's bid to left the embargo.

Mr. Barriere was accompanied by French parliamentarian Rosaline Bashilot and Mr. Boidevaix, a French diplomat, who appealed his release with Iraqi authorities.

Looking healthy but tired, Mr. Barriere, an engineer with a French communications company in Kuwait, told reporters that he felt "great to be free again."

Expressing gratitude for the Iraqi leadership to set him free he said the first thing he would do when he returns home, "is toast the Iraqis."

IAF Stages Walkout in 'Heated' House Debate

JN1612113893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16-17 Dec pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—All but three members of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) parliamentary bloc walked out from a session of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday [15 December] in protest over a decision to put to vote a proposal to end debate on their request to set up a fact-finding committee to investigate the conduct of the Nov. 8 elections.

The IAF deputies left the session in anger after accusing House Speaker Tahir al-Masri of not giving them the chance to present their views before al-Mafraq Deputy 'Abdallah Akhu-Irshaydah proposed the House end the debate and a vote on the IAF request be taken. IAF deputies Bassam al-'Umush, Sulayman al-Sa'd and Badr al- Riyati did not leave the session.

Over 10 deputies took the floor to speak on the IAF motion, which the House killed with a strong majority, but the Islamists argued most of the speakers who took the floor were opposed to the request which was signed by 14 IAF deputies.

Mr. al-Masri, supported by other deputies, said he was applying the internal regulations of the House when he asked the deputies to vote on whether the debate should stop after Deputy Akhu-Irshaydah forwarded his proposal.

Mr. al-Masri also said that the seating order determined who among the deputies was given the floor, adding that the viewpoint given by IAF Deputy Hamzah Mansur should represent that of all deputies who signed the request.

The IAF deputies had asked for the formation of a fact-finding committee to put an end to the debate over the conduct of the elections.

Deputies opposed to the request argued that the House had already set up committees to look into contestations of the results of the polls, adding that setting up a new panel would cast doubt on and conflict with the work of the contestations committees.

"I will resign from the contestation committee if a new committee is set up," said Deputy Sa'd Hayil al-Surur (Northern Bedouins), whose argument received the support of seven deputies who spoke on the issue.

Al-Mafraq Deputy 'Abd al-Karim al-Dughmi, who walked out of the session along with IAF deputies, said the committee should be established to clear all questions about the integrity of the elections. He said the committee could come up with findings that could lead to a vote of no confidence in the Cabinet or some of its members. "This is a major issue," he said.

Irbid Deputy 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah said establishing such a committee would be an illegal act that the House should not take. He said the law specifies ways through which people who question the integrity of the elections can pursue their protests.

The heated debate that ensued before the motion was killed continued into the afternoon part of the session after deputies 'Abdallah al-Nusur, Samir al-Habashinah and others failed to convince the IAF deputies to return to the meeting.

While Mr. al-Rawabidah said the IAF parliamentarians violated the law by walking out from the House without a permission, Deputy 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib (Amman) said: "What happened was illegal."

Criticising the IAF deputies for leaving the session, Mr. al-Surur said all parliamentarians should respect the opinion of the majority. This did not go well with Deputy Bassam Haddadin (al- Zarqa'), who demanded that the House stop "the process of outbiding."

Mr. al-Surur responded strongly to Mr. Haddadin, saying: "It is not us who are outbidding. It is you who tried to outbid us for four years (during the term of the 11th Parliament of which both were members)."

IAF deputies said they will hold a meeting to discuss whether they would boycott the House or not in protest as other lawmakers said they will arrange a meeting between Mr. al-Masri and IAF lawmakers to resolve the dispute.

At the request of Deputy Muhammad 'Adub al-Zabn (Central Bedouins), Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan briefed the House on the outcome of last week's visits to Jordan of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

But the briefing did not exceed what had already been published by the media, deputies said, demanding that a session be held to discuss the peace process.

Mr. al-Hasan said that His Majesty King Husayn discussed with Mr. 'Arafat the obstacles facing the implementation of the PLO-Israel accord, emphasising the need for further Arab coordination and expressing Jordan's willingness to provide the Palestinians with all the support it can give.

He said King Husayn's visits to Syria and Egypt worked to consolidate the Arab position in the peace talks. He said the King reiterated Jordan's commitment to a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Damascus and Cairo expressed their determination to develop their bilateral relations with Jordan.

In response to a question from Mr. al-Habashinah about "the failure" of the Jordan-PLO economic talks, acting Prime Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwar reiterated earlier statements that the talks did not fail.

He said Chairman 'Arafat had "personally" assured him that he would discuss the draft agreement Jordan and the PLO had reached during a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee at the end of his current visit to the United Kingdom.

"I am sure the agreement will be signed," he said.

During its three-and-a-half hour session, the House decided to set up six temporary committees and referred to its various panels a number of draft laws sent to it by the government.

The House referred to its financial Committee a draft appendix to the 1993 budget and an amended draft law on additional tax.

It referred to the Judiciary Committee an amended military pension draft law, a draft law on standards and specifications, the amended draft election law, and a draft law on production and sale of alcohol.

Deputy Khalil Haddadin protested against the draft law on alcohol saying it was on unconstitutional since it violates article six of the Constitution which says all citizens are equal regardless of their religion.

The draft law bans Muslims from producing, importing or selling alcohol but leaves the door open for Christians to engage in the trade.

Mr. al-Masri cut the debate short by referring the law to the Judiciary committee after Mr. al-Rawabidah pointed out that the Islam is the religion of the state.

'Text' of 1994 Draft Budget Statement Published

JN1412165093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Dec 93 pp 8-9

["Text" of Jordan's 1994 draft budget statement delivered by Finance Minister Sami Qammuh at the House of Representatives on 12 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies: God's peace and blessings be upon you.

It is my pleasure to present to your esteemed House the draft budget for fiscal year 1994. The draft is the government's program for the next fiscal year. Executive and consultative councils all over the kingdom have taken part in the preparation of this draft. These councils expressed their views and aspirations, which were taken into consideration when priorities were set for projects in their respective regions. I had the honor of meeting with all these councils in all governorates. This was done by the government to stress the principle of decentralization and to achieve popular participation in economic decisionmaking.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies:

Before outlining the indicators and foundations of the state budget for the next year, it would be useful to give a brief idea about the latest economic developments worldwide.

The year 1993 has witnessed a continued decline in international economic activity for the fourth consecutive year. Economists expect the Gross Domestic Product [GDP] worldwide to achieve a growth of 2.2 percent this year, by fixed prices. This is due to the economic decline in most industrial states. This decline has been accompanied by a large increase in unemployment rates, which are expected to exceed 8.3 percent. The rate of inflation in these states is expected to reach 2.6 percent. The overall budget deficit in all of these states is expected to reach 4.5 percent of the GDP. As for developing states, they are expected to achieve a 6.1 percent growth in the GDP. This will be accompanied by a noticeable increase in inflation rates, estimated at around 44 percent. On the regional level, the GDP growth rate for this year is expected to reach 3.4 percent. Inflation rates will reach 23 percent.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies:

The current political developments in the region and their repercussions will certainly have a major influence on the economies of the states of this region, including Jordan. In light of these developments, we can outline Jordan's economic policy as follows:

1. Seeking to find a minimum level of Arab integration, since this is the only and sure guarantee to preserve the Arab economic identity in an open global environment.
2. Participating actively in drawing the region's economic map.
3. Coordinating fully with the other fraternal Arab states to consider the question of the Arab boycott, after the peace process takes a very clear shape.
4. Affirming political and economic coordination with the brothers in the PLO and the Palestinian self-administration to plan the future relationship, bearing in mind each party's national interests.
5. Seeking to attract foreign capital to cope with the large size of investments projected for joint ventures.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies:

The government policies have been in line with the objectives of the national economic and social adjustment program and the state's five-year 1993-97 economic and social plan. This plan outlines Jordan's economic course and mirrors its aspirations. It is a means to contain the Jordanian economy's problems and overcome its imbalances. The government's policies in this regard are based on the following:

1. Continuing to tackle all domestic and foreign imbalances to maintain consistent high growth rates.
2. Encouraging the private sector and activating its role so that it would play a vanguard role in activating the economy and promoting the productivity of the national economy.
3. Improving the investment climate and working to upgrade all factors that would help provide an adequate investment environment.
4. Upgrading the administrative and financial performance of the public sector to enable it to provide better services for citizens at the actual cost of the services.
5. Working to provide appropriate circumstances to improve the performance of the major productive and mining companies, which constitute a basic pillar of the national economy, a source of hard currency to feed the Kingdom's reserves, and create new job opportunities.
6. Studying the situation of unsuccessful companies to rectify their situation and improve their services and the conditions of their workers. This aims at enabling these companies to continue their contribution to the national economy by increasing their revenues and controlling their expenditure.
7. Working to achieve a balanced development by distributing investment projects throughout the Kingdom's governorates and areas. Investors will be given incentives to establish productive businesses that create job opportunities for people in the governorates.
8. Giving full attention to promoting educational methods, vocational, technical, and administrative training, and to adopting modern technology. This is in view of the fact that these factors are closely linked to economic development and growth.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies: Initial indicators show that the national economy has managed to continue its growth and achieve good growth rates in all major economic sectors. It should be noted as a result of the regional political circumstances, developments, and events, which created a state of wait and see, performance in these sectors was better in the first nine months of this year than the last quarter of it.

Following is a review of the performance of the national economy in 1993:

First: The GDP is expected to achieve a real growth of 6 percent by the end of 1993 as a result of the projected 12 percent growth in the construction sector, 10 percent growth in the agricultural sector, and 7 percent growth in the trade sector. However, the mining industries sector is expected to decline by 2.7 percent because of lower international prices, strong competition, lower international consumption of phosphates and fertilizers, and the continued siege of the port of al-'Aqabah, which has resulted in higher freight costs and less exports.

At this point, it should be noted that the contribution of the manufacturing industries to the GOP is estimated at 12.6 percent, the bulk of which is contributed by the joint public companies, such as the Potash, Fertilizers, and Cement Companies, while only about 5 percent is contributed by the private sector. This is a low percentage which requires that the private sector double its efforts to increase its contribution to the industrial production sector.

With respect to consumption, the initial figures for 1993 point a tangible drop in overall local consumption in relation to the GDP by about 3 percent, compared to 1992. This is a positive indicator which reduces the general economic imbalance.

Second: Initial figures on the value of exports and imports of commodities in 1993 show stability in the volume of foreign trade in comparison with 1992. But positive change in the kind of goods exchanged has occurred. The ratio of consumer goods imported in 1993 dropped to 38 percent from 41 percent in 1992. The reduction came in favor of the imported intermediate and capital commodities.

Regarding the services balance, initial assessments show that it is expected to achieve a surplus of $1,626 million in 1993, registering an increase of 10.5 percent over 1992. The increase is attributed to the improvement of the performance of the tourism sector and to increased remittances from Jordanian expatriates. This is expected to bring the deficit in the current account against the GDP down to 10 percent from 15 percent in 1992 by the end of the year.

In general, we can say that the balance of payment operations with the outside world in 1993 enabled the kingdom to maintain its reserves and use the available foreign currency to cover imports over three months. This is a good sign by international standards.

Third: Investment:

The initial indicators show that investment volume reached 30 percent of GDP, the same percentage of that in 1992, due to the high investment level achieved in that year when returnees from the Gulf brought new capital to the market. This is obvious in the increase of the local deposit of the private sector, the growing subscription to new shares, and the increase in the capital of the industrial companies, registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, which amounted to 122 million dinars by the end of November, compared to 47 million dinars in 1992.

Fourth: The General Level of Prices:

Assessments of a record of the cost of living in 1993 indicate that the prices of goods and services are still increasing at a moderate rate, and it is expected not to exceed 4.5 percent. This rate and the salary increases that civil and military servants received contributed to the improvement of the quality of life of low and limited income people.

Fifth: Labor, Unemployment, and Poverty:

Field studies of the work force, unemployment, returnees, and poverty by the end of 1991, conducted by the General Statistics Department show that the number of people in the work force in 1991 reached 919,000, with 763,000 of them employed. Thus, the jobless rate reached 18.8 percent. The work force is expected to reach 984,000 people by the end of this year, with 875,000 employed. Thus, 13 percent of the work force will be unemployed. This shows that economic activity has achieved high rates of growth in 1992 and 1993.

The study also shows that the percentage of people considered poor dropped from 21.3 in 1991 to 16.2 in 1992, and that the level was expected to decline further. To remedy these two problems, the government is planning to take serious measures to limit their negative effect, as follows:

1. Maintaining economic and investment growth and providing appropriate investment climate to increase economic growth, particularly in the countryside. This is considered a cornerstone in dealing with real and masked employment.
2. Activating the Development and Employment Fund, supporting its policies, pursuing decentralization with regard to the identification of projects and the determination of priorities, and seeking finances for it from international institutions.
3. Expanding the base of employment rehabilitation, financing production projects through interest-free loans, and diverting the monthly assistance granted by the National Aid Fund to finance productive family projects.
4. Adopting a program for employment rehabilitation to be financed by the National Aid Fund and implementing it in cooperation with the General Union of Charitable Organizations as well as private and financial institutions to create job opportunities for the young men and women of poor families.
5. Underscoring the program of employment rehabilitation on humanitarian grounds and implementing it in cooperation with social assistance organizations and the Civil Service Commission.
6. Placing emphasis on financing development projects that create jobs and income throughout the kingdom.
7. Controlling the local labor market as well as foreign labor to promote development requirements and check competition in the national labor force.

Sixth: Monetary and Credit Policy:

Throughout this year, the government has continued to pursue monetary and credit policies that will safeguard currency stability and activate the role of the financial market to contain the 18 percent increase in private credits registered during the first 10 months of this year.

The Central Bank of Jordan has continued its efforts to unshackle the exchange system operating in the kingdom by increasing the amount of foreign currency residents are allowed to take out of the country, and also by allowing licensed banks to administer foreign currency portfolios and provide transactions in such portfolios to nonresident customers. Moreover, the government is determined to consummate the measures aimed at effecting a complete lifting of restrictions on current account currency transfers in the Jordanian dinar. It will continue to pursue a flexible policy with regard to the exchange rate of the dinar by linking it to a basket of foreign currencies to reflect Jordan's economic ties with the rest of the world.

The floating of commercial interest rates has continued to be observed. The kingdom's financial and monetary stability has allowed the credit interest and debit interest used by licensed banks to achieve positive real standards during the year 1993. These standards have allowed the mobilization of additional local and external savings and enhanced the availability of resources for investment.

Seventh: The Kingdom's Foreign Currency Reserves and the Exchange Rate of the Dinar:

The exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar has remained relatively stable during the year 1993, as the figures for the first nine months of the year show. It has registered some increases against major currencies, such as the pound sterling, the Deutsche mark, the Swiss franc, and the French franc. Meanwhile, the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar went down, with varying degrees, against the Japanese yen and the U.S. dollar as a result of the increase in the exchange rates of the two currencies in international financial markets.

As for the kingdom's foreign currency reserves, they slightly declined in September when compared with their levels in September 1992, because the country bought back $325 million of foreign debts and paid $673 million in debt servicing and repayment.

Eighth: The Stock Exchange:

During the current year 1993, the stock exchange has seen major growth in the volume of trade, which is estimated to reach around 1 billion dinars with the end of this year, compared to 887 million dinars in 1992, an increase of around 12.7 percent. This growth has been achieved despite the recession in the market in the last quarter of this year, caused by the "wait-and-see" attitude. The primary market of shares also saw a major increase in the value of newly-issued shares, which until the end of November this year reached 225.5 million, compared to 49.1 million for the whole of 1992. This will increase output and provide further job opportunities.

Ninth: General Finances:

The performance of the general economy continued to improve during the current year 1993 as a result of Jordan's adherence to the implementation of the national economic and social adjustment program. This was represented in an increase in self-reliance. Local revenues are expected to cover all current expenditure and 60 percent of capital expenditure.

The good financial performance in 1993 is expected to be reflected in a surplus of around 26.3 million dinars in the general budget, when taking into account foreign grants and aid, compared to a deficit of 48 million dinars projected for the 1993 budget. Without counting foreign grants and aid, the deficit dropped to 116 million dinars, compared to a projected deficit of 203 million dinars, that is a drop of some 43 percent. A 2.7-percent increase in local revenues and a drop in capital expenditure of 14 percent from the projected amount helped achieve that result.

Tenth: Financial Legislation:

The government sought to improve and modernize financial legislations in a manner that agrees with Jordan's needs in this regard. The supply system and the financial system have been modernized to smooth measures and reinforce decentralization, coupled with a tighter and effective supervision of the public funds. Automation was introduced and further powers granted to ease measures for citizens in all parts of Jordan. This was accompanied by an increases in tax incentives to encourage national exports and expand the base of those who benefit from income tax exemptions.

The government is also working on a comprehensive review of tax legislations to alleviate the burden of citizens. It also seeks to replace the consumption tax with the sales tax with the aim of expanding the base of the tax burden instead of limiting it to a single sector. Work is also under way to amend the customs law, the income tax law, the free zones corporation law, the investment promotion law, the law regulating Arab and foreign investments, and the Amman Stock Exchange law in order to boost investment and encourage the flow of foreign capital. A number of laws governing the work of the Department of Land and Surveys have also been amended. All amendments to this legislation will be presented to your esteemed House in the coming few weeks.

Eleventh: Domestic and Foreign Debts:

A. Foreign Debt and Servicing:

Jordan's abidance by the implementation of the national social and economic adjustment program has contributed to building bridges of cooperation and trust with the debtors, and to the rescheduling and reduction of the commercial and government foreign debts, and consequently, to decreasing their servicing. This has safeguarded Jordan's reputation and creditworthiness. Achievements in this field can be summed up as follows:

1. After strenuous efforts and lengthy talks, the government reached an initial agreement with the advisory committee for commercial banks at the end of last June. This agreement includes the rescheduling of commercial debts totalling $895 million. This agreement was signed, in its final form, in London the day before yesterday, Friday, 10 December 1993. As a result of this, these debts, which amount to 12 percent of the total foreign debts, were reduced by 60 percent. Their annual servicing was also reduced by half. Thus, the government has overcome the stage of long suffering which used to give heavy financial burdens to Jordan's commercial debts. The government has also reorganized its financial relations with the international commercial banks, something that promotes local and foreign investors' confidence in the future performance of the national economy.
2. The government was also able to reduce debts for bilateral foreign loans by $80 million, by buying them back at 36 percent of their nominal value.
3. It was also agreed to reschedule the payment of $387 million of the official bilateral debts that are due in 1993

at 20 years for government loans, and 15 years for export loans with a grace period of 8-10 years.

In this regard, initial estimates indicate that contracted but outstanding debts will by the end of 1993 decrease by $653 million, or 8.7 percent of what they were in 1992. The balance of the drafted but unpaid debts is expected to decline by $616 million or 9.3 percent of what it was in 1992.

The following timetable shows development of the kingdom's foreign debts during 1990-1993, based on the dollar's exchange rate against foreign currencies at the end of each year:

Projected amounts in millions of dollars by the end of:

Description:	1990	1991	1992	1993
Contracted but unpaid balance:	9234.0	8464.9	7529.7	6877
Pledged, unwithdrawn balance:	1618.5	1118.9	905.1	869
Net withdrawn, unpaid balance:	7615.5	7346.0	6624.6	6008

A total of $673 million or 18 percent of the total value of exports of goods and services was made in debt payment or servicing, compared to $550 million or 14 percent of the total exports in 1992.

The value of the withdrawn and unpaid foreign debts is expected to reach 117 percent of the GDP by the end of 1993, compared to 142 percent in 1992.

B. Domestic Debt and Servicing:

The Ministry of Finance records indicate that domestic debts at the end of 1993 will total approximately 1,102.1 million dinars, an increase of 29.6 million dinars as compared with 1992. This increase was used to purchase foreign debts. Following is a summary of the development of these debts for 1992-93:

	(in millions of dinars)	
	1992	1993
Loans from banks and the Social Security Corporation:	77.6	63.6
The loans of the tools of the domestic general debts:	438.5	433.5
The Central Bank's extraordinary advanced payment:	390.0	390.0
The Central Bank's ordinary advanced payment:	166.4	215.0
Total:	1072.5	1102.1

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies:

In light of the national economy's good performance during 1993, and taking into account international and regional developments and their expected impact on the Jordanian economy, as well as continuing the government policy represented by rectifying the national economy's march, the following framework has been laid for the overall economic changes for 1994:

1. Working to achieve a growth rate of no less than 5.5 percent in fixed prices in the GDP.
2. Reducing the ratio of general consumption to the GDP from 99.3 percent in 1993 to 97.8 percent in 1994.
3. Reducing the trade balance deficit within the balance of payments, as a percentage of the GDP, from approximately 10.4 percent in 1993 to approximately 7.2 percent in 1994.
4. Working to reduce the budget deficit, without grants, as a percentage of the GDP, from 6.4 percent in 1993 to 5.3 percent in 1994.
5. Maintaining a relative stability in the general level of prices, so the increase will be on the order of 4.5 percent for 1994.
6. Maintaining the stability of the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate, and continuing to build the kingdom's foreign currency reserves.
7. Improving the balance of payments by encouraging national exports, increasing domestic production, and encouraging the establishment of national industries that produce export-oriented commodities.
8. Continuing efforts to reduce the foreign debt and its burdens by purchasing the debts, restructuring, and working to transform some debts into grants. The government will do its best to have both the international community and friendly states fulfill the official promises that they made in order to reduce the burden of these debts by all available means. This is designed to enable Jordan to overcome the burdens that are beyond its intrinsic capabilities. These burdens resulted from Jordan's containment of crises and circumstances that shook the region and that were out of Jordan's control.
9. Taking part in addressing the problems of unemployment and poverty, and working to raise the citizen's standard of living by making the necessary allocations for small projects that employ workers in addition to supporting both the Development and Employment Fund and the National Aid Fund, activating their roles, and increasing the training and rehabilitation opportunities, and proceeding with the implementation of many national production projects.
10. Working to retrieve the real value of the service and commodities that the government renders, taking into account the importance of rendering them with the highest level of efficiency and capability.
11. Continuing to subsidize the citizens' basic supply commodities and taking measures and arrangements in order to convey the subsidized commodities to people who really need them rather than to both those who can and cannot afford them.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies:

The 1994 General Budget Draft Law, which is presented to you, represents the yearly plan which the government will follow in the third year of the economic and social adjustment program to implement its policies and achieve its objectives in various social, economic, and developmental fields. That draft law is characterized by the following:

1. Public revenues, including foreign grants and aid, are adequate to cover all current and capital expenditures projected for 1994.
2. Independent budgets were prepared for each governorate, which include each governorate's foreign and capital expenses, in implementation of the government's trend toward decentralization and its drive to secure popular participation in economic decisionmaking, ease measures, and save the dear citizen's time, effort, and money.
3. A trend to address the main problem, represented by low productivity, by raising production efficiency in the public and private sectors through the introduction of technological developments, increasing training opportunities, flexibility in wage structuring, and administrative development on all levels.

Following are the most important principles adopted to determine the dimensions of the 1994 general budget draft law:

1. A continued embracing of the policy of self-reliance through endeavors to make local revenues cover all current and capital expenses.
2. Modernizing financial legislation through, as I have said, comprehensive tax reform, modernizing the collection methods, and easing measures.
3. Giving our valiant Armed Forces and the various security agencies all care and attention by allocating the funds necessary to enable them to fulfill their special duty and role to guarantee social and economic security for the country and citizens, without which the desired prosperity, development, and stability cannot be achieved.
4. An effort to support local production, encourage national exports, and boost investment by providing the necessary tax incentives and removing all administrative and bureaucratic obstacles.
5. Reinforcing and upgrading the infrastructure, expanding services, particularly those related to the education, health, and social services sectors, and enabling these sectors to meet the increasing demand on services and provide the necessary services in the best way possible. In an effort to entrench the principle of health care, the government is studying a plan to expand the umbrella of health care to cover all citizens.
6. Giving special care to water, irrigation, transportation, and electricity sectors, and allocating the necessary funds for these sectors. This will encourage national investment.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies:

Based on the basic principles adopted to determine the dimensions of the 1994 budget, please allow me to present the principal features of this draft. Details can be found in the list attached to this speech.

First: Public revenues, including foreign grants and aid are estimated at 1,487.1 million dinars, an increase of 8.7 percent from the revised projection for 1993. Of this amount, 1,275.7 million dinars are local current revenues, covering some 86 percent of the total current and capital expenditure.

Second: The overall expenditure was put at 1,487.1 million dinars, an amount that reflects an increase of almost 11 percent over the 1993 expenditure. Of this amount, 1,128.4 million dinars will be allocated for current expenditure. In contrast, 1,049.2 million dinars were spent on current expenditure in 1993. Of this overall amount, 358.7 million dinars will be earmarked for capital expenditure, whereas the capital expenditure used in 1993 totaled only 292.7 million dinars.

The following is a breakdown of the allocations of various sectors as enshrined in the draft budget law:

Sector	(in millions of dinars)
—Public administration	16.0
—Defense, security, and internal security	378.1
—International affairs	16.4
—Financial management, including the support given to public institutions, the subsidies granted to basic supplies, debt servicing, pensions, and compensation	494.1
—Economic development services	249.0
—Social, educational, and health services	252.4
—Culture, information, youth affairs, transportation, post, and communications	81.1
Total	1,487.1

It is to be recalled that some of the allocations earmarked for the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Planning are to be disbursed to some of the aforementioned sectors.

Third: The Budget Deficit:

There is no budget deficit in the draft state budget I am presenting to you. There was always a budget deficit in the budget statements of the past years. The budget deficit reflects the difference between public earnings, including foreign grants and aid, and public expenditure, namely, current and capital expenditure. Projected foreign aid and grants for 1994 were put at 156 million dinars. This is what made the budget deficit nonexistent. Had there been no projected foreign aid and grants, there would have been a budget deficit of 156 million dinars. This figure is to be contrasted with the 1993 budget deficit, which totaled 203 million dinars. The lack of a budget deficit in the 1994 draft budget reflects a noticeable improvement in public financial performance.

Fourth: The financing budget was put at 300.1 million dinars. This budget will be used to repay foreign and domestic debts through rescheduling and the acquisition of easy-term domestic and foreign loans. With regard to the 1993 financing budget, it totaled 281.2 million dinars.

Fifth: This draft budget earmarked 66 million dinars for development and capital projects. This amount will be looked at as an emergency budget, to be used only if additional foreign grants and aid is received, or if easy-term loans are obtained. The disbursement of amounts from this budget to implement projects will be executed in accordance with a priority system.

It is to be recalled here that the figures reflecting the expenditure of the aforementioned sectors do not represent the whole government expenditure. For, the expenditure of public organizations must be added to these figures. The expenditure of public organizations in 1994 was put at 495 million dinars. Thus, public expenditure reaches 2 billion dinars, which reflects 50 percent of the projected GDP in 1994. The budgets of public organizations will be presented to your august House in a single volume by the end of 1993 so that the House' financial committee may study them.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies:

Foreign aid from fraternal and friendly states and the specialized international institutions, which we thank and appreciate, has supported the balance of payment, bridged the foreign financing gap, and stabilized the kingdom's foreign currency reserves.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies:

The state draft budget law in your hands emphasizes the self- reliance principle. Needless to say that public funds are yours, and they are the nation's funds. If you want to spend more, then you should increase taxes and fees in order to secure necessary funds for that spending. If you want to decrease taxes and fees, then you should reduce spending. This budget is a balanced one. I believe it is fair regarding the level of taxation and the volume of spending. Despite the fact that this country's material resources are limited, as you know, it is rich in its wise Hashemite leadership, which is working tirelessly to safeguard Jordan's bright image at international forums, to enhance it, and to secure all means of stability, prosperity, and development in this lofty country. This country is also rich in its faithful, patient, and striving people, in its valiant armed forces, and its security men who work day and night to protect its citizens. While putting the state's 1994 draft budget law before your esteemed house, I would like to quote his majesty the king, may god preserve him, who says: "What counts is not the volume of allocations, the quick spending, and the fast draining of resources, what counts is how to use the resources in the best possible manner, taking care of spending, quickly accomplishing tasks, perfecting work, having a qualified administration, and having faithfulness to one's duties and responsibilities." I beseech Almighty God to preserve his majesty the king and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, whose sacrifices, creative work, and continuous efforts to serve the homeland we are proud of. May God protect our lofty people and safeguard their national unity. May God guide our steps on the right path in the best interest of our homeland.

May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

Buwayz Views UN 'Recommendation,' Peace Talks

NC1512183493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who is currently in the British capital, said that what has been issued [by the UN General Assembly] on ignoring Resolution 425 is merely a recommendation, which cannot annul the UN resolution. He said that the subject recommendation did not stipulate the annulment of Resolution 425, although it has adopted the peace process on the basis of Resolution 242.

In an interview with the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, he said Lebanon's diplomacy deals with the peace process from a Lebanese perspective and relies on two points: first, Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon and, second, a peace treaty.

Our correspondent in the British capital, Antoine 'Awn, reports:

[Begin 'Awn recording] A few hours after the UN General Assembly passed a recommendation (?regarding) the Middle East peace process and ignoring Resolution 425 on Israel's withdrawal from the south, Foreign Minister Buwayz, who is in London, described what the UN General Assembly approved as a recommendation that cannot annul a resolution passed by the Security Council, although this recommendation ignores and bypasses Resolution 425.

In an interview with NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent 'Abdallah 'Abbud, Buwayz said this resolution still stands and is binding. Buwayz said that the recommendation did not mention the canceXlation of Resolution 425, although it adopted the peace process on the basis of Resolution 242. Buwayz disclosed U.S. messages that assert Washington's commitment to implementing and backing Resolution 425 and Washington's understanding that the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations are based on this resolution.

On the resumption of negotiations in Washington in the middle of next month, he said that Lebanese diplomacy is dealing with the peace process from a Lebanese point of view based on the principle of an Israeli withdrawal beyond the internationally recognized borders and on a peace treaty. He added that Lebanon is dealing with this issue on the basis of a comprehensive peace and a unified and collective Arab decision, particularly among the Arab countries neighboring Israel.

He stressed the difference between a timetable for negotiations, a declaration of principles, and signing a treaty on recognition and peace.

He said his talks with British Secretary of State Douglas Hurd tomorrow will focus on the following: advancing the peace process; resuming the negotiations effectively; and the political, economic, and cultural relations between Britain and Lebanon and restoring these ties to their previous status. [end recording]

Birri Condemns UN Resolution, Blames Arabs

NC1512161793 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has condemned the UN General Assembly resolution. He stressed Lebanon's insistence on Resolution 425, thanked Syria and Lebanon [as received], and blamed the Arab countries that agreed with the UN resolution. Birri said at a news conference at the Chamber of Deputies:

[Begin Birri recording] It is an established and known fact that Lebanon has made sacrifices for Arab causes, primarily for the Palestinian cause. It is also known that Lebanon has paid a dear price and has nearly risked its existence for the sake of these causes. It is known that Lebanon has never encroached on anyone. It has always been an advocate of peace, from the time that the Phoenicians introduced the alphabet to the world to its participation in devising the UN charter. [passage omitted]

The al-Ta'if Accord was signed, and Lebanon now has a national army of 50,000 soldiers. I know that Lebanon has never before had such an army and that all the Lebanese people have rallied around the army. As you know, a third of this army—some 17,000 soldiers—are deployed in south Lebanon. In addition, more than 5,000 soldiers from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon are completely prepared to implement Resolution 425.

Lebanon was invited to the Madrid conference and then to Washington. It is my view that Lebanon still needs the implementation of its right, which is Resolution 425, and that it should not have participated in the negotiations. Still, Lebanon took part in the negotiations on the basis of Resolution 425 and several U.S. letters guaranteeing the implementation of this resolution.

As you know, we were surprised this morning by a General Assembly statement asserting Resolutions 242 and 338, without mentioning Resolution 425. We know that this statement is not obligatory, but it has a great moral force. We know that 155 states voted for this resolution and that the Arab group was present in force, yet no one voted in Lebanon's favor except Lebanon, Syria, and Iran.

We say thank you to Syria and Iran for their stand and say thank you in another sense to those for whom we have made sacrifices—to the Arab world, which has always spared no verbal support for us. Thank you to all the Arab countries, except Syria, which have spared no rhetoric, sentiments, or speeches at the General Assembly but did not dare to vote for Lebanon while we dared to deal with [word indistinct], geography, and history to give everything to the Arab causes and the Arabs.

I want to affirm that Lebanon will not relinquish Resolution 425, no matter what, and that the Lebanese negotiators are not authorized to do so.

You might ask what this resolution means if it is not mandatory. I would like to explain to the Lebanese public—and I will not address the Arab public from now on—that, by overstepping Resolution 425, Israel has three aims. The first is reconsidering the demarcation of the border. We all know how much Israel had sliced and still slices from our land in south Lebanon and Western al-Biqa' every day, whether in Shib'a, Rumaysh, or elsewhere. The second aim is to take part of Lebanon's water, in addition to what it has taken from Hasbani and Wazzani. More and more, reports are confirming that underground water pipes have been placed under al-Khardali Bridge to steal Lebanon's water, and the United Nations is not detecting this as it should. Israel's third aim is to impose a merger between South Lebanese Army's and the army that represents Lebanon's unity and strength (?in its capacity) as Lebanon's national Army. These are Israel's three aims in bypassing Resolution 425.

I warn the government and the Lebanese people once again to be cohesive because then, no force—even if it is represented by 155 countries—can sidestep us. They bypassed us when we were divided, and I believe we have passed that stage. [end recording]

Al-Hariri Leaves on Official Visit to Turkey

NC1612110893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for Turkey today on a three-day official visit. He is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Industry and Oil Minister Dr. As'ad Rizq; Telecommunications Minister Muhammad Ghaziri; Finance Minister Fu'ad Sinyurah; Cabinet Secretary General Hisham al-Sha'ar; al-Fadl Shalaq, chairman of the Development and Reconstruction Council; 'Adnan al-Qassar, head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Jack Sarraf, head of the Industrialists Association.

Lebanese delegation sources said Prime Minister al-Hariri's talks with Turkish officials will deal with the situation in the Middle East and the obstacles facing the peace negotiations. The prime minister will stress that Lebanon insists on achieving a just and comprehensive peace and opposes every attempt to draw Lebanon into a separate peace.

The sources said that much of the talks will deal with the economy and trade in the area and the need to regulate and develop relations between Lebanon and Turkey. [passage omitted]

Iddih Warns of Peace Talks, Syrian Threat

PM1512164693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Dec 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Iddih: Kissinger Conspiracy Achieved by Giving Syria Parts of Lebanon"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-HAYAH—[Lebanese National Bloc leader] Raymond Iddih yesterday renewed his demand for Lebanon's nonparticipation in the peace conference [negotiations], warning of the achievement of "the Kissinger conspiracy," which he said is aimed at giving Syria parts of Lebanon.

In his statement Iddih said: "I was very pleased that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher did not visit Lebanon this time. In this way he avoided forcing President Ilyas al-Hirawi to go to al-Biqa' to meet with him there, contrary to etiquette and protocol rules which say that he should visit him in the B'abda Palace. In contrast, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad refused to go to Washington and has decided to go to Geneva to meet with President Bill Clinton. That is unless it is true that the U.S. Senate is refusing to receive the Syrian president in the United States because Syria is still on the terrorist states list. [passage omitted]

"It seems that the Kissinger conspiracy is being achieved today. The newspaper THE BOSTON GLOBE published on 8 December 1993 an article which literally says: 'And beyond the equation of the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan in return for a Syrian commitment to a full peace, there is the crucial question which must be resolved, that is the Syrian role in Lebanon. Because trade with Syria is of little value if Iran's group inside Hizballah are going to be allowed to shell northern Israel. Israel expects al-Asad to guarantee the security of its northern border—which requires the disarming of Hizballah, which is the only Lebanese militia Syria has allowed to keep its heavy weapons. And that might mean that al-Asad has to sacrifice his tactical alliance with Tehran for the sake of peace with Israel.

"'On the other hand, al-Asad is expecting not only a big share of the international aid allocated to the peacemakers in the Middle East, but also Israel's blessing on his swallowing up Lebanon and making it a Syrian protectorate. This is the price which the Lebanese will pay for the sake of Middle Eastern peace.'

"In the light of this great danger, I would like to remind the president of the republic, Ilyas al-Hirawi, that in accordance with Article 49 of the Constitution, 'he is the head of state and the symbol of the homeland's unity who respects the Constitution and safeguards Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity.' So if he does not safeguard the homeland's territory, he will have violated the Constitution and fallen into the high treason stipulated in Article 60.

"I would like also to warn all the Lebanese people of the scale of the danger surrounding their homeland and threatening their lives and their children's future."

Israel Shells al-Litani Basin, Other Areas

NC1512140793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Israeli forces this afternoon shelled the al-Litani River basin and the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and

Zawtar al-Gharbiyah. They also flew their helicopters and raked the al-Litani River with large-caliber weapons. Two artillery shells coming from the opposite positions in Sujud fell on Jarju'. This was accompanied by a raking operation from the (Bsilyah) position in Iqlim al-Tuffah on the surrounding areas of Jba' and Jabal Safi. For some time now, Israeli artillery has been shelling the Frun-Sadif road from inside the security strip.

Amal Claims Attack on Israeli-SLA Patrol

NC1612112393 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] An Amal Movement group attacked a patrol of the occupation forces and Agents [reference to the South Lebanese Army, SLA] on the Tulin-Bra'shit road at dawn today using automatic weapons and rockets. A second group simultaneously attacked the Bra'shit post.

An Amal Movement statement said fierce clashes took place for 15 minutes between the resistance fighters and the soldiers manning the post. A T-54 tank was destroyed and was seen on fire.

Heavy Israeli artillery shelled Bra'shit, Shaqra, and Haddathah until after 0900 today.

Hizballah Issues Statement on Rushdie

NC1412185693 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 3 Dec 93 p 3

[Text] Hizballah has appealed to the Islamic nation to rise up "to defend the dignity of the prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him. It pledged that the date when the death fatwa [religious ruling] against traitor Salman Rushdie is implemented will not be far off." [quotation marks as published]

Hizballah issued a statement outlining its position on the U.S. president's meeting with apostate Rushdie. The statement stresses several points:

First, the meeting is more proof that the entire issue relates to a cheap plan designed by the anti-Islamic arrogant states to complete their onslaught against the Islamic nation by destroying its values and pushing it toward a cultural vacuum before reshaping it in a manner that would serve the arrogant states' interests. Instead of being a unified nation proud of its existence, the Islamic nation would become scattered fragments living only to satisfy the wishes of the looter regimes.

Second, the meeting is a great insult to the Islamic nation, which feels extremely hurt seeing a person who dared to slander its great prophet receiving welcome and hospitality.

The profound sense of bitterness filling the hearts of Muslims will further fan the flames of the erupting volcano of rage in a nation known for its sense of pride.

Third, the denounced meeting is a new hostile step by the U.S. Administration toward the Islamic nation that only underlines the hostile U.S. policy. The meeting indicates further hostility, not toward a particular Muslim people or state but toward all Muslims of all ethnic groups and geographic locations.

The meeting also exposes the facts of the U.S. policy toward Islam. In the post-Cold War era, Islam has become the direct target." [no opening quotation marks as published]

Hizballah added: The fatwa issued by leader Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, which calls for the execution of apostate Salman Rushdie, precisely reflected the Islamic nation's adherence to its cultural identity, pride, and dignity in the face of all attempts to slander its culture and hurt its sentiments after persistence in humiliating it politically and economically.

The sinful act of apostate Rushdie cannot be labelled a creative intellectual work. It was cheap propaganda against Islam as a religion and a nation's way of life. Whereas silence over this work would signal moral decay of Muslims, raising the voice against it and commitment to the religious position toward it would point to the Islamic nation's vitality, unity, solidarity, and ability to restore its pioneering historical role.

As a confirmation that this is the truth of the apostate Rushdie's affair, there have been successive facts and pieces of evidence indicating that the issue was used as a tool to insult and humiliate Muslims and as a way to undermine their religious and cultural character through an attempt to harm the greatest and last of the prophets, Muhammad, my God's peace and prayers be upon him.

Cabinet Approves Rules on TV Transmissions

NC1612094493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Excerpts] There were developments with regard to the media today. Two issues were conspicuous. First of all, media establishments raised the question of why Future Television [Bshamun Future Television Network] was exclusively and illegally allowed to link up with a satellite via state-owned ground satellite stations. Second, the cabinet approved the regulations governing the renting of transmission and reception audiovisual satellite channels and restricted the power to authorize such rentals to itself. What is noticeable is that the cabinet, illegally and in an obvious move, made it legitimate for Future Television to continue broadcasting via satellite until 21 December. The aforementioned television station formerly obtained permission from [Telecommunications and Post Minister Muhammad] Ghaziri. [passage omitted]

Information minister Michel Samahah read out the following official announcement:

[Begin recording] [Samahah] The cabinet held its regular meeting this afternoon under the prime minister's chairmanship. It discussed the items on its agenda and approved most of them. [passage omitted]

The cabinet approved the regulations governing the renting of transmission and reception audiovisual satellite channels via the satellite ground stations owned by the Telecommunications and Post Ministry. From now on, no visual media, that is, a television station, will be allowed to broadcast via satellite except after the cabinet's approval. This will be linked with the media bill that the cabinet will discuss, I believe, on 29 December. The cabinet also decided to ban the establishment of any new television or radio stations as of today. We are waiting for the visual and audio media law to be passed. Today's decision should not be regarded as legalizing the existing television and radio stations in Lebanon that exist only as a fait accompli. [passage omitted]

No one is permitted to broadcast via satellite without the cabinet's approval.

[Unidentified correspondent] What about the stations that are already doing so?

[Samahah] The station that is broadcasting via satellite is doing so experimentally. It has been asked to stop and it will stop on 20 or 21 December. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Iran's Habibi, Velayati Conclude Meetings

Joint Committee Discusses Ties

JN1612075293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The Higher Syrian-Iranian Joint Committee met yesterday, Wednesday, under Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Iran's First Vice President Hasan Habibi.

The meeting was attended for Syria by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Industry Minister Ahmad Nizam-al-Din; and Ahmad al-Hasan, Syria's ambassador in Tehran.

For Iran, the meeting was attended by 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister; Mohammad Ne'matzadeh, industries minister; and Hasan Akhtari, Iran's ambassador in Damascus.

The committee continued discussion of business on its agenda, particularly ties between the two countries.

Velayati: Visit 'Very Successful'

JN1612133193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Damascus this morning after taking part in the meetings of the Higher Syrian-Iranian Joint Committee. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador in Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan, Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari-Foruqi, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Iranian Embassy Staff.

In a predeparture statement, Dr. Velayati praised the existing bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation and the two countries' joint stands at international forums and circles. In his statement, Dr. Velayati said the Iranian delegation under Iranian First Vice President Hasan Habibi was happy and pleased to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad. He described his visit to Syria as very successful.

Velayati said that the Syrian-Iranian talks within the framework of the Higher Joint Committee were extensive and wide-ranging. He said talks dealt with various bilateral, regional, and international issues, and that good decisions were made.

Concluding his statement, Velayati stressed the importance of and need for talks, coordination, and consultation between Syria and Iran, especially after the recent developments in the region.

Habibi, Khaddam Hold Talks

LD1612104993 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 16 Dec 93

[Text] Damascus, Dec. 16, IRNA—The visiting First Vice-President Hasan Habibi and his Syrian counterpart 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam discussed the latest developments in the Middle East region in the course of their third round of talks here Wednesday [15 December].

Habibi underlined the significance of solidarity and identity of views among the ten Palestinian groups as well as among other national and Islamic combatants in Lebanon. He underscored the unity of those groups as the main decisive factor in the strategy of campaign against the Zionist usurper regime.

Turning to his visit to the city of Haleb, he termed his talks with the professors and scholars of Haleb University as positive. He stressed that the two countries had high potentials for scientific and cultural exchanges adding that Iranian and Syrian scholars and scientists should revive the Islamic culture and heritage. To this end, Habibi said, other Islamic countries should become active.

Khaddam lauded Iran's revolutionary stand towards the Middle East and stressed strengthening of combatant Palestinian and Lebanese groups against conspiracies of the Zionist regime.

He called for Tehran-Damascus cooperation in commercial, economic, scientific and cultural fields as a means to bolster mutual ties.

In another development, Hizballah representatives to the Lebanese parliament met with Habibi here Wednesday night. Chairman of the Assembly Seyyed Ibrahim Amin said that campaign against the Zionist regime would continue until the liberation of all occupied territories.

Habibi said the outcome of the peace talks and Gaza-Jericho treaty signed between the Zionist regime and the Palestine Liberation Organization was doomed to fail. He emphasised that the only way to liberate the occupied lands and the holy Qods was to continue jihad until complete victory.

Habibi accompanied by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Minister of Industries Mohammad Ne'matzadeh arrived here Monday on a four-day official visit.

Habibi Ends Visit, Departs 16 Dec

JN1612095693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Iranian First Vice President Hasan Habibi and his delegation left Damascus at 1000 today at the end of a four-day visit to Syria.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam led those who saw Habibi off at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

U.S. Congressional Delegation Meets Leaders

Al-Shar' Confers With Group

JN1512204293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received a U.S. Congressional delegation, headed by Senator Dennis DeConcini. Members of the delegation included Arlen Specter, Charles Grassley, Bob Graham, and Representative Bill Richardson.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Najdi al-Jazzar, head of the America Department at the Foreign Ministry, and Christopher Ross, the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Talks covered the situation in the region, the peace process, and bilateral relations.

Al-Asad Receives Delegation

JN1612104293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] At 1100 this morning President Hafiz al-Asad received the U.S. Congressional delegation, led by Senator Dennis DeConcini, members of the delegation Arlen Specter, Charles Grassley, Bob Graham, and Representative Bill Richardson.

The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister, and Christopher Ross, the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Israel Urged To Abandon 'Separate' Deals Policy

JN1512202993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: These days, Israeli officials are talking a lot about the peace process and the Syrian stand which, in their view, is the reason behind the lack of progress in this process.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that the Syrians' peace proposals are not realistic. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is trying to give the world an impression that the secret Oslo agreement, which is facing many problems, is the example that the Arab parties should follow to achieve peace. It is natural for Israeli officials to harmonize their statements and exert concerted efforts to justify their policy which can be described as hostile to a just and comprehensive peace.

According to Peres, Syria is unrealistic because it is adhering to the bases of the peace process and the Madrid formula endorsed by the cosponsors of the peace process and based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. In Rabin's view, for Syria to be realistic, it should hold secret negotiations in Oslo or anywhere else in the world in order to reach a fragile and vague agreement such as the agreement with the PLO, which did not bring peace, but the total opposite. This is most evident in the events taking place in the occupied Arab territories nowadays as far as acts of repression, torture, and terrorism as well as an escalation of the intifadah.

Rabin and Peres thought that they could convince the world of the soundness of the Israeli plan to achieve an incomplete and distorted peace in the region based on partial and separate deals—deals that keep the Arab territories under Israeli military sovereignty and gives the owners of these territories the rights to exercise ceremonial sovereignty over secondary issues such as health, transportation, taxes and so on.

Israel thought that the Oslo agreement, the signing of which was celebrated during a carnival-like ceremony in Washington, is the end of the road and is the last thing that Israel could offer the Arabs. It waited for this agreement to lead, in return, to lifting the Arab boycott of Israel and opening doors for Israel to penetrate deep into the Arab rank.

Moreover, Israel presumed that this agreement will be the alternative to a comprehensive solution and the Madrid formula, based on which the peace process was launched. However, these Israeli presumptions collapsed and it became clear that they are mere delusions in the minds of Israel's rulers alone. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent Middle Eastern tour was a confirmation of the collapse of Israeli concepts about the peace process. Moreover, the intifadah activities and escalation of Israeli repression reaffirm the vagueness of the secret Oslo agreement, each clause of which needs an agreement.

Secretary Christopher's tour put the peace process back on its right track based on the comprehensiveness of the solution, the Madrid formula, and the Washington bilaterals. This was confirmed by Christopher himself who stressed the great importance of Syria's role in the peace process.

Today, as we await the talks, which will be held in Washington and will be called for by the United States, and as we await the important summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton, it remains for the Israeli side to announce its response to efforts to achieve peace and to get rid of its delusions of the possibility of achieving a peace based on separate and incomplete deals.

There can be no peace in the region without a full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and implementation of international resolutions on which the peace process is based.

Afghanistan

Acting Premier, Foreign Minister Meet UN Envoy

LD1612053693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Esteemed Qazi Mohammad Amin Waqad, the acting prime minister, met this morning with Mr. Mousouris Sotiorios, special envoy of the UN secretary general in Afghanistan and Pakistan, at the premier's palace. The press office of the premiership reported to us that in the meeting, comprehensive talks were conducted on the aid and humanitarian assistance by the United Nations, and on the efforts of the secretary general to secure humanitarian aid by world's countries for the people of the Islamic Republic Afghanistan.

Stating the activities of the UN mission, the special envoy expressed the hope that the amount of assistance will increase when permanent peace and stability is restored. In response, the esteemed Waqad expressed gratitude for the selfless cooperation of the United Nations and for its securing of necessary humanitarian assistance for the people of Afghanistan. He said: The United Nations shall not consider regional conflicts a reason for delaying the sending of material to Kabul, and shall not ignore our country with its masses of millions who deserve more humanitarian aid than other countries. As well as the resumption of UN mission actvities in Jalalabad, Mazar-e Sharif, Herat, and Kabul, it was envisaged in the meeting that a regular program to be drafted for transporting UN aid material, and shall be submitted to the premiership by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its urgent implementation.

Esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this morning in his office with the UN Special Envoy. In the meeting, Mr. Mousouris discussed the UN activities in securing finacial assistance of other countries to finance UN programs in Afghanistan, the readiness of the United Nations to help with the reconstruction of the national museum and also on the monetary aid that has been given to Herat Province over the past year. The minister of foreign affairs then emphasised the further expansion of UN aid and the resumption of sending food to the city of Kabul and other area.

Acting Premier Meets With Islamic Movement

LD1512225893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Esteemed Qazi Mohammad Amin Waqad, the acting prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this morning met with some representatives of the National Islamic Movement in the prime minister's palace. The prime minister's press office reported that during the meeting, on behalf of others, and on the instruction of the esteemed president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Lieutenant General Rahmatollah Raufi, expressing readiness for any kind of cooperation with and service for the state and the government for the establishment of permanent peace and security across the country, said: The efforts of esteemed Waqad are very valuable for the restoration of peace and security in the country.

In response esteemed Waqad expressed gratitude for the cooperation of the sensible representatives of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan to ensure peace and stability in the country, and added: We are Muslim Afghan brothers and shall protect our Islamic and Afghan spirituality and position, regardless of party, tribal, and linguistic matters, and will embark on the reconstruction of our country.

India

Opposition Views GATT Accord, Dunkel Proposals

BK1512093093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day today amidst uproarious scenes following protests by the opposition members over the reported decision of the government to sign the Dunkel proposals. The House could not transact any business and the final adjournment came after 1 PM, with the opposition members persistently demanding that the prime minister should come to the House to clarify the position. Charging the government with succumbing to U.S. pressure, they wanted their strong protests conveyed to the GATT negotiators in Geneva.

The trouble broke out in the House when the House met this morning, with the National Front and left party members on their feet resenting the reported clearance of the cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for the Indian negotiators at Geneva to go ahead with the signing of the Dunkel draft. While Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], charged the government with bartering away the country's economic independence, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, Janata Dal, said the government is going against the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Commerce. The House was adjourned till noon and later again till 1 PM as the agitated members trooped into the well of the House and started shouting slogans against the Dunkel draft. After the speaker had a meeting with the leaders of the opposition, the House met at 1 PM. However, the opposition members were not satisfied with the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee's assurance to make a statement at 4 PM, given at the meeting. Mr. Jaswant Singh, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], said that the House cannot function in such extraordinary situation unless the prime minister himself clears the position.

In the Rajya Sabha, the National Front and left party members today forced a brief adjournment, demanding immediate clarification on reports that India is going to sign the new GATT treaty. Order was restored following a firm commitment from the chair that the commerce minister will make a statement later in the day. The issue was raised by Mr. Sukomal Sen, CPI-M, and others during zero hour [time during the parliamentary session when there are no items on the agenda].

The BJP benches were empty right from the start of the proceedings in the House today.

Minister Discusses Dunkel Proposals

BK1512162893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The agriculture minister, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, has said that India is not required to undertake any subsidy reduction commitment under the Dunkel proposals, as the subsidies are well below the permissible level of 10 percent. He told a meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee of his ministry in New Delhi that India is also not required to provide minimum access opportunity due to the adverse balance of payments during the base period between 1986 and '89. Members expressed concern at the lack of information available for the farmers on the Dunkel proposals concerning the agricultural sector. They wanted the government to clearly spell out its policy and allay the fears of the farming community.

Commentary Reviews GATT Agreement

BK1612035493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Commentary by S. Srinivasan of the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA]

[Text] The most comprehensive trade deal in world history has just been pressed together a few hours ago by representatives of 117 countries at a specially convened trade negotiations committee's [TNC's] session in Geneva. After seven years of haggling and squabbling, especially among developed countries, the director general of GATT, Mr. Peter Sutherland, called the TNC into session for each delegation to agree to record the results of the negotiations and submit the entire package for its government's approval in accordance with the relevant domestic procedures. The general agreement is a contract insisting on nondiscriminatory treatment of trading partners and setting rules designed to counter protectionism and the law of the jungle in global trade. The contract remains what is left of the 1947 Havana Charter drawn up for the constitution of a planned International Trade Organization, ITO. Though the ITO was intended as a main plank of the postwar economic system on par with IMF and World Bank, a handful of countries, including the United States, did not sign the charter.

While it is true that for 45 years the GATT has been operating on an improvised basis, the Uruguay Round would put it back where it was designed to by its founders as one of the three Bretton Woods sister organizations along with the World Bank and the IMF. This is being achieved by the creation of a Multilateral Trade Organization, MTO. The Uruguay Round is the eighth in the annals of the GATT and in the previous rounds, the main work was cutting tariffs. As a result, the average tariff has fallen from almost 40 percent when the GATT was founded to 4.7 percent now and will be as little as 3 percent once the Uruguay Round is ratified.

As trade flourishes on constantly changing competitive advantage, producers of goods and services need markets which are open, undistorted, stable, and predictable. To foster such markets, governments have to work within a framework of international commitments, rules, and obligations. The Uruguay Round is precisely aimed at strengthening the rule-based multilateral trading system, otherwise the world would be teetering on a slippery slope of protectionism and inward-looking economies with lost economic opportunity and efficiency gains.

Besides, the tariff cutting that has been part of every past round of GATT talks, the direct benefits of the Uruguay package would include extending multilateral discipline to agriculture and textiles. It also includes trade in services, movement of personnel from developing to developed countries, investment, intellectual property rights, and beefing up GATT dispute settlement mechanism, so as to avert costly trade wars.

Pakistan Seen Turning Into 'Favorite' U.S. Ally

BK1512153193 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 29 Nov 93 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Policy is Changing"]

[Text] Symptoms appeared earlier which indicated that the policy of the U.S. Government towards this subcontinent is changing. Hence, there is nothing to be surprised about over the moves being made by the Clinton administration to repeal the Pressler Amendment which came into force in 1985. President Clinton and his advisors have drafted a policy for South Asia particularly for India and Pakistan and are working in accordance with it. Though it is said that this policy is new, there is really nothing new to it. There is nothing wrong in assuming that this new policy proposes to pursue the past policy of making Pakistan a favorite ally of the United States. It may be mentioned that for many years Pakistan was a close partner of the United States. Sympathizers of Pakistan within the U.S. Congress and political quarters of that country are very critical of the former Republican regime for being harsh towards Islamabad, which was an intimate friend of Washington during its hard days. The Clinton administration perceives the objections raised by these quarters and is taking measures to amend the wrongs committed by the erstwhile regime. It is unfortunate that India will be affected because of this change in attitude of the United

States towards Pakistan. As a result of this, the chances of Pakistan launching aggression against India will increase.

It may be mentioned that the Pressler Amendment was aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear arms in South Asia and at destroying such arms wherever they existed. Pakistan is trying to manufacture nuclear weapons. With this end in view it has secretly and illegally procured the necessary raw materials and equipment from different countries and has refused to abide by requests not to do so. On this charge, in 1990 the Bush administration decided to suspend annual assistance of $650 million which Pakistan had been receiving from the United States since 1980. But the patrons of Pakistan are opposed to suspending this assistance. They believe that India is also commiting wrongdoings, but only Pakistan is being punished. This was recently stated by spokesman of the U.S. State Department (Mike McCurry). He said that the U.S. knows that India is in possession of nuclear weapons and can easily make bombs. His statement indicates that so far India has managed to escape, but now it will also be punished. Action could be taken against India under the provisions of the Pressler Amendment, but now it is being repealed. Hence some other measures will be taken against India. In this regard, the government is considering formulating legislation which will empower the President to take action against any country he desires. It will also give the President the power to exempt any country of the charge of manufacturing nuclear weapons. The American President is already very powerful, but now efforts are being made to increase his powers.

During a recent session of Congress, it was stated on behalf of the administration that U.S. policies are formulated to protect national interests. We have no objection to this statement. In this connection it must be mentioned that Washington fails to realize that other countries, however small they may be, have their own national interests which they also want to preserve. These nations may not accept the logic that they are supposed to protect the interests of the United States Government. It is difficult to understand why the nuclear nonproliferation treaty is so urgent for the United States. India has invited trouble by not being a signatory to this treaty. During the time of British colonial rule, the East India Company declared war against local rulers who refused to endorse legislation formulated by them. The situation is similar now. Will the nuclear nonproliferation treaty really be able to deter countries willing to obtain nuclear weapons? What restraint is being displayed by countries who are already in possession of nuclear weapons? Has France or Britain taken steps to reduce their nuclear arsenal? Do these questions make the United States happy? Who is assisting Pakistan in becoming a nuclear power? Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has herself stated that negotiations are continuing with France for setting up a nuclear reactor. Until now India has not seen any evidence that Pakistan has given up its quest to acquire nuclear weapons. In fact, India faces a threat from Pakistan on one side and from China on the other. It must be said that granting most favored nation status to China by the United States was not in the national interest of the latter. This step has become a cause of concern for many other countries.

President Sharma Receives Indonesia's Suharto

BK1512160693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Indonesia says it is keen to intensify cooperation with India in trade and economic relations, particularly in steel production and the development of small and medium-scale industries. The visiting Indonesian president, Dr. Suharto, said this during his meeting with the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] today. The two leaders discussed issues of mutual and regional concern.

Suharto, Rao Agree on UNSC Restructure

BK1612042393 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Report by RRI Correspondent in New Delhi]

[Excerpts] President Suharto and Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao had a private dinner in New Delhi last night. The two leaders expressed similar views on the membership of the United Nations Security Council [UNSC] saying that it should be restructured because it is no longer applicable to the current global situation.

After dinner at about 2330 West Indonesian Time last night, Murdiono, Minister/State Secretary, told newsmen that the two heads of governments had agreed on the need to restructure the UNSC membership. [passage omitted]

On the occasion, Narasimha Rao also asked President Suharto to brief him on the meeting of leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Seattle, the United States, last month. President Suharto stressed that the outcome of the APEC meeting would bring new opportunities and advantages to the countries of the south.

Earlier, President Suharto held talks with Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma. The Indian president said it is an honor to have Suharto at the "Education For All" summit in India. During the meeting, the two heads of states discussed wide ranging topics covering bilateral and international issues.

President Suharto also expressed his appreciation to the government and the people of India who supported Indonesia in its independence struggle. He said that Indonesia is also interested in learning about India's success in developing small and medium scale industries, as it will also be developing them in its upcoming sixth five-year development plan.

Meanwhile, responding to newsmen on the postponement of the Group of 15 [G-15] meeting, Murdiono said this was not due to the lack of interest of member countries. Rather, he said, the meeting had coincided with their busy schedules to which they were already committed. [passage omitted]

President Suharto is scheduled to deliver his keynote address at the opening of the "Education For All" summit today.

Rao, Malaysia's Mahathir Meet, Sign 6 Accords

BK1412160493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] India and Malaysia today signed five memorandum of understanding and an agreement on technical cooperation in the private sector. These are in the fields of railway construction, telecommunications, rubber, high-level professional education, and air conditioning industry. The prime ministers of the two countries were also present at the signing ceremony.

Earlier, the delegations of the two countries held wide ranging discussions on matters of mutual interests. This was preceded by a one-to-one talks lasting about 30 minutes between the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the visiting Malaysian prime minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed.

Talks Detailed

BK1512124993 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0949 GMT 15 Dec 93

["Official spokesman's statement on the meeting between our prime minister, Sri P.V. Narasimha Rao and the prime minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed today 14-12-93"]

[Text] Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, had a meeting with our prime minister, Sri P.V. Narasimha Rao today. They began by meeting on a one-on-one basis. Our prime minister spoke about cooperation among developing countries in the context of the recent G-15 meetings. The objective of the summit, which eventually was postponed, was for developing countries to consult together on their own concerns to find ways of fulfilling their aspirations. This was of great importance in a changing world which often had the habit of marginalising the developing countries. Our prime minister welcomed close interaction with a country like Malaysia. Prime Minister Mahathir agreed that in a world situation like the current one, it was important that countries such as India and Malaysia should consult each other regularly. They exchanged views on developments in their regions. Both leaders emphasized the need to develop bilateral, commercial, and economic cooperation. The Malaysian prime minister mentioned that specific areas should be identified where cooperation showed promise and he mentioned the development of infrastructure, as well as, areas like professional education. Both leaders noted that India and Malaysia were countries with a long historical and cultural background. Such countries had their own way of looking at things based on their own ethos and sometimes the native genius of their people could provide solutions to the present-day problems more effectively rather than simply trying to graft solutions from the developed world.

The delegation-level talks were attended on our side by the commerce minister, Sri Pranab Mukherjee; the external affairs minister, Sri Dinesh Singh; and the minister of state in the prime minister's office, Sri Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi; and on the Malaysian side by their foreign minister, Datuk Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badavi. Our prime minister began by mentioning that there had been satisfactory and comprehensive discussions at the G-15 meetings of the prs [personal representatives] and the foreign ministers. It is necessary to follow up bilaterally to see that the outcome was not neglected through a lack of high-level attention. He said the present interaction with Malaysia was an example of high-level follow up between the two countries. Malaysian Prime Minister agreed with these views and said that Malaysia had the same perceptions and concerns. Our prime minister mentioned that in the South Asian region, SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] had made a slow and steady progress and had come of age. On his query about developments in the Asia and Pacific region, the Malaysian prime minister mentioned that although the G- 15 summit had been postponed, he was very happy to be here as Malaysia gives great importance to its relations with India. He said that we should build up our ancient historical links now to cooperate for mutual economic benefit. He stressed that specific areas should be discussed in the context of bilateral cooperation apart from infrastructure. He referred to cooperation and joint ventures in the areas of telecommunication and also the need for promotion of investment on both sides. He said that Malaysia had a good deal of experience in privatization which had been a very successful exercise for them and this was an experience they could share with India. The Malaysian prime minister also dwelt on the current round of the trade negotiations [GATT talks]. He said this was crucial and its failure would be bad for developing countries. The results of the Uruguay round may make some developing countries lose some advantages temporarily, but in the long-term, a successful conclusion of these negotiations would be favourable for developing countries as international trade would proceed on the basis on some accepted rules and regulations. Our prime minister elaborated on India's economic reforms. He mentioned categorically that these reforms would continue and there was no going back on them. He also agreed with the visiting prime minister about the need to focus on specific projects and asked the ministers present on the Indian side to follow up on the suggestions made by the Malaysian prime minister.

Later, five MOUs [memorandums of understanding] and one technical cooperation agreement were signed with the objective of promoting joint venture between the private sectors on both sides. The areas are railway construction, telecommunications, rubber (one technical cooperation in latex rubber and one MOU), professional education and air conditioning industry.

Zimbabwe's Mugabe Seeks Aid for Industry

BK1512161493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The Zimbabwe president, Dr. Robert Mugabe, has sought India's collaboration in the development of his country's small-scale industries. After visiting the prototype Development and Training Center of the National Small Industries Corporation in the capital, he said India with its vast technical expertise can help Zimbabwe in this field.

Minister: No Defense Accord Signed With Israel

BK1612092493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] India has not signed any agreement with Israel in defense cooperation. Stating this in the Rajya Sabha during question hour today, the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, said that only exploratory level talks have been held with Israel in this regard.

Iranian Official Discusses Economic Ties

LD1512221493 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 15, IRNA—Iran is ready to extend all possible help to India to enable it to establish ties with the newly independent Central Asian republics, said the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Research and Learning, 'Abbas Maliki, in New Delhi today.

Inaugurating a one-day seminar on "India, Iran and Central Asia", organised by the "Indian Council of World Affairs" (ICWA), Maliki said "by virtue of its geographical location and traditional ties with Central Asian republics Iran is vital in the promotion of Indo-Central Asian relations".

"India could use Iran as a corridor in its trade with the Central Asian countries and also utilise the services of Iranian banks operating in these countries for this purpose," he said.

He described the India, Iran and Central Asia as an emerging triangle in the post Cold War international econnomic and political order.

"Iran and Central Asia are at present enjoying close relations in political, economic, scientific and cultural spheres," said Maliki. Iran is helping Central Asian states in their drive for economic reconstruction and scientific development, added Maliki.

Speaking at the meeting, the Iranian Ambassador to India, Shaykh 'Attar said that a sort of "trilateral trade" relations between three regions were emerging.

On Kashmir, Maliki said "Iran is committed to a just, peaceful and everlasting solution to the Kashmir issue and is ready to extend its good offices in this regard."

On the proposed laying of overland gas pipeline between India and Iran via Pakistan, the deputy foreign minister said that this would benefit both India and Pakistan and hoped that it could contribute to the stablisation of Indo-Pakistan relations.

Earlier addressing the seminar Indian Minister of State for External Affairs R.L. Bhatia said "Iran's cultural and economic ties with Central Asian countries and India's willingness to enter into close relations with the same countries would lead to the formation of Iran-india-Central Asia axis".

The prospects of the establishment of this axis have further improved following Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's successful visit to Iran recently, Bhatia said.

The seminar, attended by noted academecians from the town, concluded with a "vote of thanks" from council's president, Har Charan Singh Josh, with the hope that India-Iran relations would keep on strengthening in years to come.

Nuclear Research Reactor Offered to Thailand

BK1612035093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] India has offered for export a nuclear research reactor of an advanced design. The minister of state in the prime minister's office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, told the Lok Sabha yesterday that the relevant information for setting up such a research reactor has been submitted to Thailand.

Parties Clash in Uttar Pradesh Assembly

BK1612120093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] At least 12 members of the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha [Legislative Assembly] were injured in a clash between BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and ruling SP-BSP [Samajwadi Party—Bahujan Samaj Party] members which marred the governor's joint address to both the houses today. The former speaker, Mr. Kesarinath Tripathy, was among the injured. Soon after the house reassembled after a break following the governor's address, BJP members shouted antigovernment slogans and demanded that the opposition leader, Mr. Kalyan Singh, be brought to the house from judicial custody. BJP members entered the well of the house and some of them claimed the podium and when the speaker, Mr. Dhaniram Verma, adjourned the house for an hour amid unprecedented bedlam at about 1230 hours [0700 GMT], agitated BJP members occupied the speaker's chair. Some members were bodily lifted and taken out of the house. The adjournment was later extended till 1500 hours. The newly elected speaker, Mr. Dhaniram Verma, described today's happenings in the house as unfortunate and unprecedented.

Earlier, the state governor, Mr. Motilal Vora, addressed the house, which was boycotted by the BJP members to protest against the arrest of their top party leaders.

Home Minister Comments on Kashmir 'Militants'

BK1512100293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The government has ruled out any negotiations with the militants on issues that might endanger the national interest. The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, told the Rajya Sabha during zero hour [time during the parliamentary session when there are no items on the agenda] today that all facts leading to the surrender of militants at the Hazratbal Shrine in the Kashmir Valley last month will be placed before Parliament.

He said New Delhi has conveyed its concern to Pakistan for the infiltration of militants from across the border and smuggling of narcotics. The minister hoped that Islamabad will take recourse to check the menace.

On the recent militant attack on the Srinagar TV center, Mr. Pilot assured the members that government will provide all essential safeguards to protect AIR [All India Radio] and Doordarshan [television] officials.

Proposal To Swap Education Debts Detailed

BK1412131493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] India has proposed swapping the education debts of the Third World countries as a means of funding education on the lines of the initiative taken in 1987 for environmental protection. It said efforts of donor agencies should be for long-term development of education in the country concerned. In a report presented at the second panel discussion on external and internal resource mobilization for education for all in New Delhi today, India called for viewing expenditure on education as an investment that yields benefits for generations. Initiating the panel discussion, the human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, said there are exceptional situations when internal resources are not sufficient to meet the needs and a greater degree of concessional assistance is unavoidable. He said for mobilizing higher resources for education, governments have to look beyond conventional budgeting and they should draw upon community resources. Referring to the total literacy campaign in India, he said manpower is an enormous resource for spreading education at grassroot level. Prominent educationists and social thinkers who participated in today's panel discussion included the Egyptian minister for education, Professor Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din; Dr. Arjun Sengupta, member secretary, Planning Commission; Mr. (Wadi Hadat), senior advisor to World Bank; and Mr. (Malcolm Adisheshiya).

Iran

Tehran Radio Views Aspin's Resignation

NC1612085893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Commentary from the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Following strong criticism, U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin finally submitted his resignation to U.S. President Bill Clinton, who said the resignation will take effect on 20 January.

Although Aspin said he is resigning for personal reasons, it is no secret that his resignation stems from pressure inflicted on him by critics of the Clinton administration's activities abroad.

About a month ago, Congress started to strongly criticize the Defense's Department handling of affairs and many congressmen called for Aspin's resignation. The critics who attacked U.S. foreign policy, especially on Somalia, criticized Aspin for refusing to send reinforcements to Somalia and said his actions led to the defeat of the American forces in Somalia. They referred to Black October, when 18 Americans were killed in Somalia, and called for the defense secretary to resign. In October, after Aspin refused to send reinforcements, the 18 American servicemen were killed in a battle.

If we consider Aspin's resignation to be the outcome of his failure, we should consider it a sign of the defeat of the Clinton administration's foreign policy, which has been shown by one man's resignation. When Clinton started his election campaign, he stressed the principle of returning to America and staying away from conflicts abroad. With this slogan and by stressing the reconstruction of the American economy and solving domestic problems, Clinton defeated his rival George Bush. But when Clinton entered the White House and inherited the legacy of George Bush and international developments he couldn't shift his focus from events abroad to events at home. Problems in various places, such as Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Haiti, pushed America in a direction that made Clinton act in a way that was contrary to his slogans.

So, in view of American failure in its involvement in these issues, basic weaknesses in the Clinton administration's foreign policy started to emerge. Compared with George Bush, who portrayed U.S. foreign policy as successful, Clinton appeared to be extremely unsuccessful. Failure and defeat and his contradiction of campaign promises intensified dissatisfaction with the Clinton administration's foreign policy. Aspin's resignation is the first result of the dissatisfaction and criticism.

If Aspin's resignation is considered to be the result of criticism and the failure of Clinton's foreign policy, then we should expect other resignations by American foreign policymakers. This is why experts believe that Secretary of State Christopher will be the second person who must resign.

Commentary Assesses U.S.-Pakistani Relations

NC1612094393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Commentary from the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] On the fourth day of the visit by U.S. senators to Islamabad, there has been no news of lifting American financial and military sanctions on Pakistan or of limiting Pakistan's nuclear program. These two elements have been preventing the improvement of relations. In 1990, America stopped its financial and military assistance to Islamabad on the pretext of Pakistan's nuclear activities. Recently, with the end of the political crisis in Pakistan, diplomatic efforts for closer bilateral relations started.

Washington showed an interest in improving relations with Islamabad when it felt the situation in Pakistan had stabilized. So, on 28 November, the State Department handed a draft bill to Congress on the basis of which the ban on military assistance to Pakistan was altered, allowing it to be reintroduced if the President thought it necessary. The draft bill states that the President can consider any country an exception so as to safeguard U.S. national interests.

Political analysts believe that after realizing that economic and military sanctions wouldn't be very effective, the U.S. President decided to review the decision, especially as Pakistan could have overcome the problems stemming from the American sanctions by changing the direction of its foreign policy and focusing on other countries.

America is trying to improve its relations with Pakistan when Pakistan has responded negatively to American requests to stop its nuclear program. Pakistani officials have repeatedly stated that as long as there is no agreement on declaring the entire area a nuclear-free zone, Pakistan will not halt its nuclear program.

The truth is that Pakistan cannot accept America's requests because of its national security with regard to Pakistani-Indian rivalry. It wants American-Pakistani relations to be viewed as a separate issue. And public opinion in Pakistan and pressure by the opposition faction in parliament prevent the government from replying positively to America.

Political analysts believe that, undoubtedly, in a bid to prevent a Muslim country from acquiring nuclear potential and to satisfy its regional allies, Washington is pressuring Islamabad to alter its program. Definitely, a Muslim country's acquiring nuclear technology giving Islam increased strength and power is not something that America and the Zionists can take lightly. Certainly, to ensure its national interests, Washington is trying to improve its relations with Pakistan in every way it can; otherwise, Islamabad will choose to pursue another path.

Editorial on CIA Director's Comments

NC1012130093 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Dec 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Mohammad Sarafraz: "Folly or Valor"]

[Text] In an interview with CNN, the CIA chief said: Clinton made a brave decision to meet Salman Rushdie and this decision is taken into consideration, directly or indirectly, by millions of people, namely millions of Muslims who believe in an open society and in freedom of speech as a source of hope.

CIA Chief James Woolsey then turned his attention to Iran and said: Iran's action in issuing Salman Rushdie's death order has made some think that Islam and terrorism are one; but Islam is a magnificent religion! He also claimed that Iran has tried to acquire nuclear weapons but that it is still in its preliminary stages, and he also officially confirmed that Israel does have nuclear arms.

Since these remarks were uttered by a high-ranking U.S. security official they call for a closer look at the following points:

1. The U.S. President had previously stated that some of his aides had advised him against meeting with Rushdie, so it is now obvious that the CIA chief plays the main role in the President's decisions against Iran and against the world of Islam.

The CIA chief's analysis of human beings and especially of Muslims is very interesting and shows how much the extensive U.S. intelligence machinery knows about the realities of the world today. Also, Mr. Woolsey says that Clinton's meeting with Rushdie is considered a source of hope by millions of people, namely millions of Muslims.

We should admit that the CIA chief is either unable to understand facts and figures or knows nothing about human beings, let alone Islam!

The CIA chief should say how his intelligence sources were able to carry out a poll of these millions of people in such a short time.

Can a human being consider himself to be a human being and not express his aversion for a person who has insulted God's greatest and favorite prophet? Only people with no trace of humanity can feel satisfied and hopeful from the American President's action; and these people can be found only around the White House and in other palaces throughout the world.

The issue of "freedom of speech" too is old and tattered.

First of all, no sane human being thinks that freedom of speech is without any limits and can go as far as insulting the biggest sanctities of the world.

Secondly, as far as freedom of speech is concerned—well, we offer it to them as a gift! It is better for the heads of Europe and America not to deprive millions of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina of their freedom to live, something which they are so impudently doing.

2. The only correct thing the CIA chief said was his reference to the magnificence of Islam and the fact that it opposes terrorism.

Islamic Palestine is now proof of this. The Israeli regime is a symbol of state terrorism around the world and not a day passes without it resorting to terrorism. The latest example of this was the arming of Jewish settlers to kill defenseless Palestinians.

In return, the Palestinian Muslims have displayed the magnificence of Islam. 'Arafat's compromise with Israel was expected to lead to the acceptance of the Zionists' domination and to create a confrontation among the Palestinian groups. But today the magnificence of Islam has prevented the fulfillment of all the satanic objectives of America, Israel, and 'Arafat, and all of the enemy's deceits have boomeranged.

Yesterday more than 10,000 supporters of Hamas and the PLO-affiliated Fatah movement organized unprecedented and historic demonstrations in just one city in Gaza and they pledged to each other to continue the armed struggle against the Zionists.

This was the outcome of years of plots and plans to disgrace the Muslims of Palestine! And we should thank God for having chosen our enemies from among fools.

3. Even though the American President has claimed that his meeting with Rushdie was not meant to insult the religion and culture of Islam, he nevertheless has not given any logical reasons for having made this allegation.

Salman Rushdie's only outstanding characteristic is his insulting of Islamic sanctities and the only reason for a meeting with him is because of this characteristic. Most probably it would be very hard to find a case in all the archives of the White House when an American President has resorted to such folly in his opposition to Islam.

3. In the same way that American intelligence sources speak of millions of pro-Rushdie Muslims, they also allege—contrary to official statements issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency—that Iran is trying to acquire nuclear weapons!

Like in the old tale, American intelligence officials may lie so much that even they themselves will believe their own lies. But it should be noted that what has caused them so much fear is not nuclear weapons but the Islamic awakening that extends from Central Asia to the Horn of Africa and from the Middle East to Europe; and neither the nuclear weapons of America nor of Israel or of anybody else can be effective against it.

Editorial Views Russian Election Results

LD1612084793 Tehran IRNA in English 0828 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' today editorialized on the Russian parliamentary elections and said Iran "cannot remain indifferent towards the victory of a group opting for adventurism in the internationally recognized borders." The daily, commenting on the early lead by the Liberal Democratic Party, said Iran would keenly follow up the results of the elections.

Turning to the ambitious objectives of the Pan Slav and Russian nationalists who are in the lead, the daily added that the news of the victory "cannot not be pleasant for any country, especially for Russia's neighbours."

It added that Iran was also concerned about how Moscow will, in the coming months, treat the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and said, "any form of insecurity and adventurism in these republics will bear direct relationship with Iran's national security."

The article noted that Russia's battered economy and dissatisfaction of people with the excessive flexibility of the Russian leaders towards the West in recent years, regarding domestic and international issues, are important factors affecting the polls.

Visiting Turkmen Official Urges Expanded Ties

LD1512172393 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—A senior Turkmen official here Wednesday [15 December] called for further strengthening and broadening of relations between Iran and Turkmenistan.

The Turkmen Acting Foreign Minister Anaberdyov Charry, who is here to make preparations for the forthcoming visit to Iran of Turkmen President, Said Saparmurad Niyazov attaches great importance to the visit.

Speaking in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister for Europe-America Affairs Mahmoud Va'ezi, the Turkmen official said President Niyazov favours solid Ashgabat-Tehran ties.

The two officials agreed on formation of six committees to follow up implementation of previous agreements and to forumulate the plans for future bilateral cooperation.

Representatives from the ministries of oil, roads and transport, energy, commerce and PTT, attended the meeting.

Va'ezi underlined the importance of President Niyazov's forthcoming visit to Iran and said both countries had so far taken great strides to boost their ties.

He stressed that Tehran-Ashgabat relations in the past two years have been deepened and the borders between the two countries have been named frontiers of friendship and amity.

He said President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent vist to Turkmenistan is a main factor for expansion of bilateral cooperation and an indication of good neighborly relations.

Processing Plant To Be Set Up in Turkmenistan

LD1512171393 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Dec. 15, IRNA—Iran is to set up a bentonite processing plant with annual production capacity of 100,000 tons in Nebit-Dag, northwestern Turkmenisatn, director general of the provincial mines and metals department, Mohammad Baqeri, said here Wednesday [15 December].

According to Baqeri, the dlrs. 4-million contract was signed for Iran by minister of mines and Metals, Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji in Ashkhabad last Tuesday.

He added that the Turkmen Government, in return is to provide Iran with the sodium sulphate and magnesium chloride of the Karabekaul Gulf processing unit.

Baqeri added that Turkmenistan Republic concluded a contact with Iran's Mines and Metals Ministry to purchase 100,000 sq. m. of dimensional stones, some 20,000 sq. m. of which will be provided by the province, including granite and marbels.

Baqeri referred to the provincial deposits of different kinds of construction stones estimated to amount to 100 million tons, granite and marble in particular, and said that Khorasan has rich deposits of dimensional stones as compared to other areas of the country.

Western, Russian Interests in Caucasus Viewed

LD1512232293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The foreign ministers of Britain and Russia, Douglas Hurd and Andrey Kozyrev, yesterday in a joint article in the daily FINANCIAL TIMES laid emphasis on the need for presence of joint peacekeepers of Russia and Western states in the Central Asian Republics and Caucasus. The article also referred to the necessity for the timely resolution of the current and potential unrest in these areas.

Central Asia and the Caucasus are among the regions where rich raw resources like oil, gas, uranium, and gold as well as the consumption market have remained intact. This issue raises] the West's interests specially because the West, in view of its critical economical situation, is in need of new regions for investment and sale of its products. Russia also badly requires the raw resources of those regions. For instance, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan are providing the uranium and oil needed by Moscow now.

Central Asia and Caucasus have caused concerns for the West and Russia in two ways. The potential and factual grounds of clashes between the republics in those regions, like Azerbaijan and Armenia and other ethnic unrests in the region, form one of these aspects. The same issue can endanger West's investment in the interests of Russia. Something that the Westerners and Russians do not call for.

On the other hand, the increase in the Islamic tendencies among the people in Central Asian republics and Caucasia, who are searching to find their real identity, is worrisome for the West and Moscow because the realization of this will undoubtedly lead to the penetration of the alien countries [sentence as heard]. Therefore, the Western states and Russia, despite competition over penetration into Central Asia and the Caucasus, enjoy some common points for cooperation in various fields in getting the Islamic fundamentalists in those regions under control. Therefore, their agreement for formation of a joint peacekeeping force should be evaluated within this very framework.

In the opinion of political observers, the Tajikistan experience showed that presence of alien and hegemonist forces will in no way be accepted by the public opinion and therefore, one should expect that the presence of the joint peace-keeping force in Central Asia and Caucasus pave the way for the recurrence of fresh clashes in those areas. The same issue can be worrisome for the regional countries as well, particularly, because no role has been intended for those countries in the Hurd-Kozyrev plan to terminate regional clashes.

German Official Meets Besharati, Prosecutor

LD1512181893 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—The visiting German Deputy Minister of Justice Reiner Funke in a meeting with Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here Wednesday [15 December] called for amending the 1927 protocol to pave the way for granting dual nationality to nationals of both countries.

Funke also called for promotion of political, economic, cultural and industrial relations between the two countries.

Besharati said both Iran and Germany enjoy full understanding in all fields and expressed confidence that Iranian and German Governments would never face any problem if they continue to put emphasis on their common views.

The interior minister said that Tehran and Bonn can cooperate within Interpol, in fighting terrorism and drug trafficking and in extradition of criminals.

Besharati voiced Iran's readiness to put its experiences on anti- drug campaign at the disposal of Germany.

Funke and his companions also had a separate meeting with Prosecutor General Ayatollah Abolfazl Mousavi Tabrizi, today.

Ayatollah Mousavi Tabrizi categorically denied reports by certain international organizations on alleged human rights abuses in Iran.

"Those reports have been filed under influence of arrogant powers and enemies of the Islamic revolution... Iran is ready to respond to each and every of these cases in any internatioal forum," he said.

Mousavi Tabrizi said the Islamic Republic observes the rights of religious minorities in the country and according to the constitution the minorities are free to practice their religious bliefs.

On judicial procedure in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the prosecutor general said all detainees and their family members are informed of the charges within 24 hours of detention. The accused person is entitled to have a defence lawyer, he added.

The ayatollah also condemned the PLO-Israel compromise deal, saying it was nothing but complete denial of rights of the Palestinian nation.

Funke, referring to the importance of peace in the region, said in the absence of Iran's cooperation the region can never enjoy peace.

He called for expansion of cooperation between the two countries and expressed Bonn's interest in taking part in Iran's reconstruction efforts.

Meets Supreme Court Head

LD1512181993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Excerpt] German Deputy Justice Minister Rainer Funke and the delegation accompanying him met the head of the State Supreme Court, Mr. Moqtada'i, today.

At the meeting, Mr. Moqtada'i referred to the role of retribution in reducing figures for crime and violence in Islamic communities and said: If crime statistics in Islamic countries, where retribution laws are implemented, are compared to those in Western countries, like America, it becomes clear that figures for crime and violence in Western countries are higher than in Islamic states. He also said: We have smashed many international and professional smuggling rings to eradicate narcotics in our country and prevent their transfer to Europe through Iran and will not desist from steadfast action in this regard.

He added: Unfortunately, the UN Human Rights Committee special envoy has based his empty report on those actions and some unfounded reports.

At the same meeting, the German deputy justice minister said: We believe that the media sometimes reflects untrue reports and unfortunately, such an approach, although it may be unfair, may exist, but we are not deceived by that in Germany. [passage omitted]

Government Welcomes Solidarity Day With Bosnia

LD1612113693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has named 27 December as a day of solidarity with the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr. Sadri, head of the second central European department of the [Iranian] Foreign Ministry, announced the news in an interview with our correspondent.

He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes this humanitarian move and will wholeheartedly take part in the mobilization of Islamic countries to put an end to the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Referring to the blockage of routes for provisions and fuel to reach the besieged Muslims in Sarajevo and other Bosnian cities, he said: In conjunction with Islamic countries and international forums, the Islamic Republic of Iran has begun efforts to provide the needs of the besieged people of Bosnia.

Transit Agreement Signed With Turkey

LD1612102593 Tehran IRNA in English 0937 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—Iran and Turkey here Wednesday [15 December] signed a memorandum of understanding for transit of goods and passengers between the two countries. The agreement was signed on behalf of Iran by Deputy Road and Transportation Minister Mohammad Saeed-Nejad and on behalf of turkey by Transportation Ministry official, Tekin Cinar.

According to the memorandum, the two sides agreed to lift all restrictions in the transit of goods via the territory of the other country. Both sides are to provide each other with the necessary transit permits and required facilities. At the first stage, 10,000 transit permits for 1994 are to be exchanged between the two countries by the end of the year, the agreement stipulates.

The Iranian side, in an effort to meet the demands of the Turkish side, agreed to provide Turkey with 60,000 permits for 1994. Meanwhile, passengers of the two countries will travel via Turkey and Iran with no need to transit permits.

Iranian Delegate on Results of UNIDO Conference

LD1512224993 Tehran IRNA in English 1947 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Vienna, Dec 15, IRNA—Iran's head of delegation, to "UNIDO" fifth general conference, Mojtaba Arastou, called the "Yaounde Declaration" a "turning point" for the industrialization of developing countries.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in its session (Dec 6-9) in Cameroon's capital, Yaounde, emphasized the importance of investment promotion, technology transfer, development of human resources and creation of an "enabling environment" both nationally and internationally for industrial growth and competitiveness.

In an interview with IRNA here Wednesday [15 December], Arastou added that his delegation, at the conclusion of the conference, had stressed the importance of the declaration, and emphasized the need for a serious approach to the implementation of reforms called by the conference.

Iran's view was supported and shared by several other countries, who in their speeches to the conference referred to Iran's stand, Arastou noted.

The UNIDO general conference, during its session, issued 30 resolutions and one declaration. Iran took an active part in drawing the resolutions and the declaration, said the head of delegation.

Iran was also among few countries whose suggestions for UNIDO activities were used in the final declaration.

The "Tehran Declaration", passed by the Conference of Technology and Industry Ministers of "ESCAP" (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), was also included in Yaounde Declaration, according to Arastou.

The "Tehran Declaration" calls on UNIDO to improve cooperations with regional organizations, especially "ESCAP".

For the first time ever, with massive Iranian support, and despite Western opposition, UNIDO held its general conference in an African country which was welcomed by African states, underlined Arastou.

The Iranian delegation, referring to the atrocities committed by Israel's occupying forces protested to the conference on the credentials of Israel, and expressed support for industrial development plans in the occupied Palestinian territories.

On the sidelines of the conference, the head of Iran's delegation had talks with Senegal's industry minister, and Cameroonian foreign and industry ministers.

UNIDO general conference attracted delegations from 160 countries.

President, Minister Clash Over Oil Policy

PM1612120293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Interference in Oil Policy Sparks Conflict With Minister Aqazadeh"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A dispute has erupted between two senior Iranian officials over who is in charge of oil policy. They urged Iranian Guide 'Ali Khamene'i to intervene to settle a dispute which could spread.

The two officials are President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh. The severity of the disagreement which began between them two years ago increased following the drop in oil revenue and the shortage of cash.

It is believed that President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who controls a section of the media services, ordered the launch of a series of veiled attacks on Minister Aqazadeh because of his failure to prompt OPEC members to comply with the oil production quota.

Aqazadeh was also criticized for saying that Iran has achieved 90 percent of its oil revenue for this Iranian year, which ends in March 1994.

The Iranian Central Bank, which is run by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's supporters, said that oil revenues will not exceed $14 billion, compared with the $17.6 billion expected and which was mentioned in the general budget.

The pro-Hashemi-Rafsanjani daily newspaper THE TEHRAN TIMES published an article urging the Iranian president to intervene personally to put oil "on the right track."

As for Morteza Alviri, one of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's aides, he urged the president to meet with OPEC leaders to prevent the continuation of the deterioration in oil prices.

A spokesman for the Oil Ministry said yesterday that "no one is in charge of oil policy except Minister Aqazadeh. If there is a need for further negotiations, the minister will conduct these negotiations via the competent channels."

The spokesman described as "idle talk" allegations made by media services supporting President Hashemi-Rafsanjani that OPEC members are violating the decided quotas. He added: "We published our report on product levels in all OPEC member states, and we back the figures we published, which prove that the agreed quotas are being adhered to."

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani believes that Minister Aqazadeh has angered major OPEC members and thus he should be replaced by someone else. But this attempt was doomed to failure last summer as a result of Khamene'i's support for the oil minister.

Khamene'i Addresses Professors, Students

LD1512140593 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on Wednesday [15 December] pinpointed the important role of the unity between theological schools and universities in building up an Islamic country and leading its nation towards perfection.

The supreme leader made the remark in a speech to a large group of university professors and theological students on the eve of the day of unity between theological schools and universities.

Ayatollah Khamene'i described theological schools and universities as the two fundamental institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The leader said theological schools were responsible for acquisition of sciences relevant to the understanding and promotion of religion, research on divine rules concerning all aspects of man's life and their promulgation in every society in a language best understood by that society.

Iranian universities are entrusted with a task of acquiring modern sciences and scientific innovations so as to improve people's standard of living, the ayatollah said.

"The unity between theological schools and universities is of great importance for the prosperity of people in this world and hereafter," the leader of the Islamic revolution pointed out.

Both centers, the leader noted, should make use of each other's expertise and cooperate with each other with a goal of improving people's life. In that case, the Iranian nation would be an independent nation and the Iranian society a model one, he added.

The leader urged theological schools to escalate their efforts for better introduction of religion to people through research, innovation and keeping abreast of international issues.

Central Bank Criticized for 'Unclear' Policy

LD1512173393 Tehran IRNA in English 1218 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—A morning daily Wednesday [15 December] commented on the sharp drop in the value of the rial against major foreign currencies and criticized the Central Bank for its silence and unclear policy on the current monetary situation in Iran.

"KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" in its editorial wrote that parallel to the drop in the value of Iranian national currency, "the people's trust in the government's economic policy has also decreased daily just as their purchase power."

It pointed to an interview by the english daily "TEHRAN TIMES" with presidential advisor Morteza Alviri in which he described the currency situation as "alarming but not out of control."

"Mr. Alviri's statement has surprised economic observers and might even add to the current confusion which will not be settled in the foreseeable future. Such statements will provide good reasons for money dealers to further exploit the current situation in their own benefits."

it recommented the government to try to implement long and proper plans to cut the hands of the profiteers who interfere in money exchange markets in an attempt to fish in troubled waters.

"In order to achieve its economic objectives, the government needs to carry out its policies with the public's support and trust," concluded the daily.

Imports Blamed for 'Chaos' in Exchange Market

LD1512174193 Tehran IRNA in English 1319 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—The Persian daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" in its editorial Wednesday [15 December] said the irrational and unjustified import of goods was the main reason for the present chaos in the Iranian exchange market.

It said the "unjustified silence" of the economic authorities of the country has now become unbearable. it is not yet clear whether the silence is an inevitable part of an economic policy or that the economic officials have nothing to say about it.

According to the paper, even those who supported the single rate system for foreign exchange, or those who considered as unavoidable the "economic adjustment" at the present juncture or those who prescribed simultaneous implementation of all economic plans, now admit that the rapid growth of the foreign exchange rate has no "economic justification."

Those who labelled the opponents of such policies as "common," uniformed" and "unspecialized" are not willing now as "competent and informed" economists to explain the present situation. They purposefully see it to their best interest to keep silent. "But will the present economic situation improve, if the economic authorities keep silent?" the daily questioned.

Do those who rushed to establish a link between the national currency and foreign currencies have any justification for the 45 percent decline in the rate of the national currency within two months and its 30 percent plunge within the past few days?

The daily beleived that the unprecedented fluctuation is mainly due to the "psychological atmosphere" prevailing over the money market. Silence of the economic authorities has further aggravated the problem.

It recommended the economic authorities to act boldly, bring the problems, flaws and deficiencies to the open, avoid gradual retreat and waste of time and do not allow the profiteers, professional dealers and behind-the-curtain hands, guided from abroad, to act freely.

The daily also criticized the majlis in this respect saying that the majlis too has not acted properly and efficiently. It would be fair to say, the majlis has also failed to formulate and approve serious and effective laws in this respect.

Militant Clergy Association Views Economy

NC1512141893

[Editorial Report] Tehran SALAM in Persian on 2 December carries the first of an unspecified number of articles on the economy. This first article, by the "Political Unit of the Tehran Militant Clergy Association," is 4,000 words long and is titled: "Iran's Economy in the Past Four Years."

In its introductory remarks, the article states: "On the eve of compiling the country's second development plan, we must appraise the first [Five-Year] Development Plan. Based on this need, the newspaper seeks to publish reports and articles that are linked with the assessment and appraisal of the first development plan in a manner that helps to keep the discussion alive and serves as a beacon for the future."

The article refers to a recent statement by the association that: "The revolution cannot sacrifice individuals to adjustment merely for the sake of economic growth and development." It mentions that the report is similar to the first and fourth chapters of a book published by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance called: "After Four Years."

The article deals with the socioeconomic situation in 1988 as regards production and per capita income, investment and employment, foreign exchange earnings, the balance of payments, budget, liquidity, prices, inflation in the private sector, and the inefficiency of the administrative system.

Elsewhere, the article examines the reasons for the above and attributes them to the past economic structure, administrative disarray following the revolution, the imposed war, internal plots, fluctuations in oil prices, the lack of a specific program, and economic planning.

Concluding, the article states: "The protracted war, extraneous restrictions, and the limited arena for the people's activities combined with an economy that doesn't motivate and its prerevolution inefficiency, when it underwent no serious revamping, caused numerous economic problems. Inflation, shortages, unemployment, administrative corruption, abuses in the government and private sector, and so on, were the problems we faced. A new path was opened to solve them. Ways and means of eliminating them from our Islamic and revolutionary homeland were identified along with economic reconstruction, in which the people are involved; and the boosting of production for better domestic consumption and to reduce imports, increase exports, and generate foreign exchange income to minimize dependence on oil, increase employment, and ensure more cash to continue healthy government activities."

Campaign Targets 'Decadent' Movies

NC1312130493 Paris AFP in English 1106 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec 13 (AFP)—Peddlers of pornographic movies will face the death penalty under proposed new legislation in Iran, a newspaper said Monday [13 December].

A bill under review in parliament also calls for a prison sentence of three months to one year or a fine of 1,000 to 5,000 dollars for anyone who attempts to distribute video cassettes of Western popular shows and "decadent" movies.

The sentence could rise sharply if the offense is repeated, the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said.

Any first-time distributor of pornographic films and other items would be sentenced to a jail term of one to three years and a fine of 50,000 dollars.

Such offenders could receive the death penalty if they repeated the offense and were determined by the Islamic revolutionary courts as the "corrupt of the earth," according to the newspaper.

The authorities are stepping up a campaign against "social corruption," a term used in the Islamic republic of Iran to describe symbols of Western culture.

But many foreign-made movies are smuggled into the country and widely circulated to meet increasing demand.

* Appointments to Various Offices Announced

94LA0038A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVAT in Persian 3 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] In an order from Dr.Sa'id Sohrabpur, deputy minister of culture and higher education for development and defense, Engineer Biyuk Rikhtehgari was appointed as general manager of this ministry's development projects, and assumed his duties.

On the recommendation of Dr.Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, and with the approval of the president of the republic, Bahram Qasemi was appointed as Iran's special and fully authorized ambassador to Spain. Prior to this he was Iran's ambassador to the Republic of Ireland and chief of the First Eastern Europe Office.

'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, vice president of the republic for legislative and parliamentary affairs, issued orders appointing Fatemeh Ja'fari, Seyyed Mahmud Hamuni, and 'Abdol-Majid 'Aqiqi, respectively, as general manager of legal affairs, general manager of laws and regulations, and general manager of the Office of International Agreements in the office of the president of the Republic.

On the recommendation of the minister of the interior and with the approval of the Council of Ministers, Mohammad Reza Rahimi was appointed as the new governor-general of Kordestan and Engineer Mohammad Hoseyn Moqimi was appointed as the new governor-general of Khuzestan.

The minister of culture and higher education assigned the position of supervisor of Tehran's Khajeh Nasir ol-Din Tusi Industrial University to Dr. Ahmad Ardebili, and the position of supervisor of Kerman's Martyr Bahonar University to Dr. Akbari.

* Appointments Announced 17 Nov

94LA0038C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 17 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] The Council of Ministers, approving a recommendation from the minister of the interior, appointed Samad Raja as governor-general of Kohgiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad.

In separate orders from Dr. Marandi, minister of health care, treatment and medical education, Dr. Hoseyn Kil was appointed secretary of the National Council of Medical University Presidents, and will retain his position as chief of the Center for Studies and Educational Planning. Dr. 'Ali Mahfuzi and Dr. Mostafa Mokhlesi were appointed as the minister's fully authorized representatives on the Executive Council of the Office of Charity Health Care and Treatment Services.

Akbar Torkan, minister of roads and transportation, issued separate orders appointing Engineer Mohammad Sa'zi, Engineer 'Alimohammad Nurian, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mostafa Hezaveh'i, respectively, as deputy minister for economic affairs, acting minister for the air transportation industry, and supervisor of the ministry's public relations office.

Rahim Najafi was chosen as chief of the Center for Research and Artistic Study in the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Dr. Najafi, minister of education and training, issued separate orders assigning the deputy ministerships of legislative and parliamentary affairs, administrative and financial affairs and nonprofit schools affairs, respectively, to Habibollah Biazar, Seyyed 'Emad ol-Din Qazevi and Mohammad Taqi-Mo'id. He also assigned the jobs of general manager of public relations, acting minister for staff offices and general manager of ministry cooperatives and social security to 'Alireza Hajianzadeh, 'Ali Vatani, and Hasan Feda'i.

* Appointments Announced 1 Dec

94LA0038D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 1 Dec 93 p 4

[Text] By order of Engineer Ahmad-Akhundi, minister of housing and urban development, Engineer Mehdi Tafazoli was appointed deputy minister and executive director of the Executive Organization for Government and Public Buildings and Installations.

General Seyfollahi, national police force commander, appointed Brigadier General Karim Malahi as supervisor of the Greater Tehran Police Precinct and, and he praised the services of General 'Oqba'i, this police precinct's former supervisor.

Engineer Fallah assigned the position of deputy minister of the reconstruction crusade and chief of the National Pastures and Forests Organization to Engineer Hasan Mehdipur.

The executive vice president of the republic appointed Mohammad Eslaminesb as supervisor of the Center for War-Stricken Areas Construction and Reconstruction, and Seyyed Mostafa Miri as his acting deputy for executive affairs.

Pakistan

Visiting U.S. Senators Meet Ministers

BK1412145193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] U.S. Senators Thad Cochran, Larry Pressler, and Hank Brown had a meeting with Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on the entire range of Pakistan-U.S. relations. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali briefed the U.S. senators on Pakistan's regional and global perception, in particular the Kashmir dispute and relations with India. He said the Indian atrocities in held Kashmir have heightened tension in the region. He said we have agreed to the talks with India on Kashmir, even though we are not very optimistic about their outcome, especially since India has intensified its campaign of repression in the occupied valley.

In the meeting, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali reiterated that the Pressler Amendment is one-sided and has damaged Pakistan's self-defense capability. He said Pakistan hopes to work with the U.S. Administration and Congress to redress the situation so that close and cooperative relations that have traditionally existed between the two countries can be restored and further strengthened.

Pakistan fully shares the goal of nonproliferation with the United States and it has made proposals to establish a nuclear weapons free zone in South Asia, but India has failed to respond positively. This was stated by Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani during a meeting with the U.S. Congressional delegation led by Senator Thad Cochran. The delegation includes Senators Hank Brown and Larry Pressler. The defense minister told the delegation that Pressler law had proved counterproductive. It did not achieve its objective of nuclear nonproliferation, rather it has discriminated against Pakistan which is an old U.S. ally. He expressed optimism that the visit of the delegation would not help the U.S. Administration have a fresh look at bilateral issues, but would also help it formulate a more even-handed approach at the regional level.

The U.S. senators expressed the hoped that the first-hand knowledge would help them form an original opinion about the region.

Meet President, Foreign Minister

BK1512034693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] U.S. Senators Thad Cochran, Larry Pressler, and Hank Brown called on President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari in Islamabad yesterday evening. Later, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto also joined them in the meeting. At the meeting, Pakistan-U.S. ties, the regional security situation, and nuclear nonproliferation were discussed. The president and the prime minister also apprised the U.S. senators of the latest situation in the Indian-held Kashmir.

Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, the secretary for foreign affairs, the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, and the ambassador-designate of Pakistan to the United States were also present on the occasion.

Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali said he informed the U.S. senators that every application of the Pressler Amendment has negated economic and military assistance to Pakistan, casting the country into a dangerous situation as the military balance goes in favor of India. He was speaking to foreign journalists in Islamabad yesterday after his meeting with the U.S. senators. He said he also apprised the U.S. senators that the Pressler Amendment, which is discriminatory legislation, has granted veto power to India against Pakistan. Pakistan is strongly determined to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone. The foreign minister recalled that it was India that began a nuclear arms race in the region through a nuclear blast in 1974. He said Pakistan has so far paid about $1 billion to the United States for the purchase of military equipment, including F-16 aircraft. Making a demand for the delivery of the aircraft, he said if the United States does not fulfill its pledges, Pakistan will be constrained to seek other alternatives for its air defense system.

Senate Chairman Criticizes Pressler Amendment

BK1612093793 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 16 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] Rawalpindi—Terming as unjustified the Pressler amendment, chairman Senate Wasim Sajjad, on Wednesday [15 December] said Pakistan will not compromise on the country's security.

Speaking at the oath taking ceremony of the office bearers of the Rewalpindi Press Club, the senate chairman said the amendment is discriminatory and has tilted the military balance in favour of India. He added no law and morality can permit such kind of legislation.

Wasim said the Pressler amendment has totally failed to achieve its objective of checking nuclear proliferation in the region. However it is causing harm to America's age old friend Pakistan. He said India exploded its nuclear device in 1971. US experts have confirmed that India is also making missiles.

The Senate chairman maintained that India will achieve the capability in the year 2000 AD to make missiles which can even target the United States. He reminded that India has already made intermediate missiles.

In this situation, he said, imposition of Pressler amendment is one-sided and unjustified. He vowed "we will render every sacrifice but will not bow before any discriminatory pressure".

He told the audience "we have made it clear to the visiting US Senators that Pakistan will turn to other options if Pressler law stays". He added that we can buy better military hardware on soft terms from other countries.

Wasim Sajjad said the amendment has affected our military defence capabilities which is deplorable in the existing circumstances.

Speaking on the Kashmir issue, the Senate chairman urged the media to project the Kashmir issue vigorously at all levels and air voice against the violations of human rights there. [sentence as published]

He said Western countries, specially the US has started to realise the gravity of the Kashmir problem.

He said he had very useful talks with the US Senators, and noted that US desired a peaceful solution of Kashmir.

He expressed satisfaction over the realising of the violations of human rights in Kashmir by the Western countries. The House of Commons also desired an honorable solution to the Kashmir problem through use of the right of franchise to the Kashmiris, he added.

Wasim Sajjad said both government and the opposition should play their due role for strengthening the democratic process in the country and should also play their effective and constructive roles for the progress of the country.

It was high time, he added, to adopt a strategy and to introduce a system which guaranteed the integrity and solidarity of the country.

He said the early solution of Kashmir issue was imperative for the congenial atmosphere among the two neighbouring countries i.e. India and Pakistan.

He said Pakistan was facing various challenges including poverty, unemployment, health and education which need urgent attention of the government.

He said the press has the power to change human thinking. "I think responsibility of the national press has increased. Journalism is not only a profession but also a mission", Wasim Sajjad said adding the journalists should work to maintain peace, unity as well as promote positive thinking

He stressed that journalists should also play their positive role in increasing awareness among the masses to root out the causes hindering progress and prosperity of the country.

He paid glowing tributes to journalists for their sacrifices rendered for the freedom of press.

"I believe in the freedom of expression as I consider it the first condition for strengthening a democratic system", he added.

Papers View Senators' Visit, Pressler Amendment

Editorial Defends Nuclear Program

BK1512140393 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 15 Dec 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Pressler's Visit and the Nuclear Program"]

[Text] Senator Larry Pressler accompanied by a three-member U.S. senatorial delegation arrived in Islamabad yesterday. The main force behind the Pressler Amendment will have met the prime minister and the foreign minister by the time this editorial is published. Meanwhile, the U.S. ambassador also called on Prime Minister Bhutto yesterday and expressed the hope that the U.S. aid to Pakistan would be resumed. During the meeting, the prime minister made it clear that Pakistan has the right to defend itself and it will definitely not roll back its nuclear program.

The U.S. senator's delegation has arrived in Pakistan at a time when the country is in the midst of debates and discussions on the nuclear issue. The visit assumes great significance in view of the fact that the United States not only suspended aid to Pakistan on the pretext of the nuclear program, but also resorted to the practice of harassing it. The visit is also significant in view of the impression being created by governmental circles that the present government will be able to restore U.S. aid without any "compromise" on the nuclear program; while the opposition is saying that the government has bowed to the U.S. conditions and that is why the aid is going to be restored. Unaware of the reality, the people are wondering whether to believe in what the present prime minister is saying or to accept as true the allegation by the former prime minister.

Confusion prevails even about Pakistan's nuclear program itself. India and the United States insist that we have crossed against the red light. But our responsible figures are terming it as [word indistinct]. A statement by former foreign minister Agha Shahi was published in today's newspapers in which he claimed that Pakistan's nuclear program has been frozen. However, General Mirza Aslam Beg, the former chief of the army staff, while acknowledging the freezing of the program, has simultaneously claimed that Pakistan had acquired the weapon-manufacturing capability in 1987.

When people in responsible positions are not consistent in their statements, it naturally creates confusion. However, the main thing is the national interest. It has become evident from the debates held so far on the nuclear issue that our nuclear program is an inevitable necessity so far as the national security is concerned. And if we have so far been able to protect ourselves from Indian aggression, it is due mainly to the nuclear deterrent. It is a "peaceful" program in the sense that it provides a guarantee for peace and against war in this subcontinent.

We should clearly tell the United States and its delegated envoys that we have acquired the nuclear capability for peaceful purposes. And since we have acquired it through our own resources, it is therefore not possible for us to accept any conditions on it. How can the countries which went to extremes to restrain us from having a peaceful program—and tried to punish us by stopping economic and military aid—have the right to dictate to us on our nuclear program? As our program is aimed at securing peace and ending aggression, we will be ready to accept any reasonable proposal. Hoever, that will be only when India signs the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, accepts the world body's resolutions on all disputes, including the Kashmir issue, and implements them.

It is India which is the root cause of the disturbances in this region. No neighboring country can remain complacent about its defense unless India shuns its oppressive designs. The present government will do a service to the nation if it succeeds in convincing Pressler and his companions of Pakistan's nuclear stand. We hope that Pressler is not visiting Pakistan to force this country to accept his conditions, but to end the present coldness in Pakistan-U.S. relations and to attain a realistic perception of the problems and difficulties being faced by Pakistan. We also hope that he will return to Washington satisfied.

Editorial Criticizes Amendment

BK1512090693 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 15 Dec 93 p 7

[Editorial: "Pressler's misbeliefs"]

[Text] Senator Larry Pressler, perhaps one of the first internationalists from the backwaters (South Dakota, is it?) of the United States of America, has given himself the right to wax eloquent on a range of issues confronting the South Asia region. The senator, who is the author of one of the most discriminatory pieces of legislations—

the Pressler Amendment—is currently on a "listen and learn" visit to the subcontinent. While it is not certain what exactly he has learnt on the tour, it is also not apparent whom the senator has been listening to. In an interview to the Times of India, Pressler has been quoted to have said that China will remain the real danger to regional peace and security in South Asia and East Asia for the next ten to twenty years. "The Chinese seem to want total power in the region which could trigger off a reaction in Japan and other countries. Even Pakistan cannot really trust the Chinese."

We strongly believe in individual liberty and the freedom of speech and, as any other individual, Pressler has the right to say what he wants. But Islamabad does not need the senator to tell Pakistan whom it can trust and whom it cannot. Pakistan has had a time-tested relationship with China which has neither hinged on providing bases for U-2 flights, nor on defeating the "evil" of communism in Afghanistan. In fact, China's unconditional support—moral, political, diplomatic and material—has remained a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and has gone a long way in addressing some of the legitimate national security issues. And this support is even more vital after the US ditched Pakistan in the aftermath of the break-up of the Soviet Union courtesy "enlightened" legislators such as Larry Pressler. It is ironical that sitting in New Delhi, all that Pressler could see was a Chinese desire to have "total power" in the region. All this while he remained blind to Indian ambitions in South Asia.

The senator could have done himself and his constituents a big favour had he studied the recent history of the region before embarking on his listen-and-learn visit. This crash course in history would have enabled the senator to realise that Indian designs in the region pose a far greater threat to peace in South Asia than any other single factor. From interference in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan to aggression against Pakistan, as also human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir and East Punjab are all manifestations of New Delhi's ambition to be the regional bully in South Asia.

And legislations such as the Pressler Amendment go a long way in encouraging New Delhi in its designs by tilting the balance of power India's way. All we feel for the pretentious Larry Pressler is compassion because views such as his reflect a complete lack of understanding of complex international issues and nothing else.

Editorial Questions U.S. Stance

BK1512092993 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 15 Dec 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Amendment Must Go, Mr. Pressler!"]

[Text] A three-member delegation of the US Senate is now having parleys in Pakistan, after visiting India, to assess the reaction in the sub-continent towards the new moves being undertaken on non-proliferation by the Clinton administration. Whereas the American senators had to address apprehensions being expressed by the Narasimha Rao government over the possible repeal of the Pressler Amendment during their stay in India they would be dealing here with a strong case against the lopsided non-proliferation approach of the US towards Pakistan. In her meeting with Ambassador Monjo, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has reiterated Pakistan's principled stance on the nuclear issue while appreciating the steps being taken to correct the injustice done to Pakistan under the Pressler law. The Pressler Amendment, adopted to facilitate military aid to Pakistan during the Afghan War, became instrumental in tilting the military balance in favour of India which refuses to accept any proposal regarding nonproliferation in South Asia. The uneven-handed approach not only proved counter-productive, but also encouraged the hawks in the Pakistani establishment to cross the Rubicon in the absence of conventional military aid. On the other hand, it reinforced India's belicosity in not accepting any restraint on its ambitious nuclear programme.

When the Clinton administration expressed its desire to adopt an even-handed approach by proposing to repeal the country-specific law, and Ms Raphel took a principled stand on the Kashmir dispute, the reasonable sections in the Pakistani establishment were encouraged as opposed to the jingoists who got baffled. If the United States pursues its nonproliferation objectives in a principled and even-handed manner, it will find many supporters in the sub-continent. The proliferationists in Pakistan and India could be isolated, given the stark economic realities. But Senator Pressler's approach is not going to help the US arrest proliferation. Moreover, linking People's Republic of China's nuclear programme with the security of South Asia, as Mr Pressler has tried, will make non-proliferation in the region conditional upon the nuclear disarmament at the world scale. The Indians have been relating their nuclear undertaking with that of the Chinese, and the East Europeans, who in turn await global non-proliferation to take place. A viable package should concentrate on a regional solution while involving other nuclear powers as guarantors. It must be remembered that a peaceful solution to the problem of Kashmir can in the meanwhile, facilitate achieving non-proliferation and a lasting peace in the region.

Visit Evaluated

BK1612073393 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 16 Dec 93 p 6

[Editorial: "The Discriminatory Law Must Go"]

[Text] A three member U.S. Senators delegation led by Senator Thad Cochran and including Senator Larry Pressler, author of the notorious amendment, arrived in Islamabad after brief visits to South Korea, Burma and India. During their three-day stay here they have already met Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad and Federal Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Defence, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani. They have also called on President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President's House]. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto later joined the meeting at which Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan, U.S. Ambassador to Paksitan John C. Monjo and Pakistan's ambassador-designate to U.S., Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, were also present.

During all these meetings, besides briefing the U.S. Senators about the situation in Kashmir and the need to resolve the dispute peacefully, the issue of nuclear non-proliferation was also discussed. Mr. Wasim Sajjad told the Senators that the Pressler Amendment was very discriminatory and had badly affected Pakistan's defence capability. Moreover, the Amendment had failed to achieve its real objective i.e. checking nuclear proliferation and needs to be amended to make it more effective. It is unfair, he added, to ask Pakistan to stop its nuclear programme and ignore India which had a known nuclear programme and was well advanced in producing nuclear weapons and missiles. Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani also told the Senators that Pakistan shared the goal of nuclear non-proliferation with the United States but the unwarranted Pressler Amendment had rendered ineffective the cooperation in defence and economic fields between the two countries. Briefing newsmen about his meeting with the U.S. Senators, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said that they had been told that the Pressler Amendment ignores our vital security needs and encourages India to pursue its nuclear ambitions. The amendment is pushing Pakistan to the wall and compelling it to look to other sources for strengthening its defence. The present tour of U.S. Senators is obviously for the purpose of assessing the reaction in the subcontinent towards the new moves of the Clinton administration to make its foreign aid policy less discriminatory and the possibility of repealing the Pressler Amendment. The U.S. Senators have been rightly reminded that the amendment amounts to giving India a veto power over Pakistan rather than making South Asia a nuclear-free zone. As such this unjust law must be scrapped. The Clinton administration has now released the draft of a foreign aid bill which does away with the discriminatory Pressler Amendment and gives President the discretion to issue a waiver to resume aid to a country which otherwise would not be entitled to U.S. assistance. It is hoped that it would be adopted by the Congress and American aid, so unjustifiably denied to Pakistan, would be resumed at the earliest.

Bhutto, UAE President Discuss Afghanistan

BK1412144793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, and the president of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, had a meeting in Rahim Yarkhan today. The two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest. They expressed the hope that the fraternal relations of the two countries will be further strengthened in the days to come. Pakistan's prime minister told the United Arab Emirates president about her successful visit of Iran and Turkey. Shaykh Zayid Bil-Sultan Al Nuhayyan praised the decision of Pakistan and Turkish prime ministers to visit Bosnia-Herzegovina. The two leaders condemned the inhumane crime perpetrated by the Serbs against the Bosnian Muslims and appealed to the world community to take concrete measures for stopping the genocide of Muslims in Bosnia.

The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, and President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan expressed deep concern over clashes between rival factions of mojahedin in Afghanistan. They appealed to all the factions to think seriously of finding a way to bring an end to the meaningless and internecine fighting in Afghanistan which has already claimed thousands of precious lives.

The ruler of Dubayy, Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, was also present in the meeting. Pakistan's prime minister was assisted by Defense Minister Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, Interior Minister Major General, retired, Nasirullah Khan Babar; Prime Minister's Special Assistant for Economic Affairs Mr Shahid Hussain, and Member of National Assembly Mr. Asif Ali Zardari.

India-Israel 'Collaboration' in Kashmir Outlined

BK1612113593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 15 Dec 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—About 100 MOSAD-trained Indian officials have been deployed in the Indian-held Kashmir [IHK] for counter-intelligence and counter-infiltration operations, a knowledgeable source told the PAKISTAN OBSERVER.

Training has been imparted in India over the last three years by the Israeli instructors who have been visiting India including the IHK. In all about 300 MOSAD men participated in the training exercises, the source added.

The source also confirmed the reported clash between the MOSAD men and Kashmiri freedom fighters in June 1991 near Srinagar in which one Israeli was killed and three injured. One Israeli was also kidnapped from the venue of the clash by the freedom fighters and later handed over to the UN office in Srinagar.

Main objective of the Israeli intelligence men in IHK was to plan a heli-borne assault on Kahuta nuclear installation, the source said, adding Israeli intelligence officials also advised Indians to scare away the Muslims from the Kashmir Valley in order to effect a demographic change in the held area.

Meanwhile, there is ample evidence to suggest that closer military cooperation between Israel and India is already underway and is going stronger by the day. This cooperation has acquired a strategic dimension with the demise of the Soviet Union who had since early 50s been India's main arms supplier.

First shipment of Israeli arms reached India in 1962 when at the request of Nehru Israel sent 80mm and 120mm guns, mortars and famous Israeli stunguns.

During 1965 Indo-Pak war Israel supplied to India large quantities of anti-tank missiles besides technical assistance. In 1971 Indo-Pak war Indian Foreign Secretary D.P. Dhar secured from Israel some weapons described by the source as of "crucial nature."

Since 1979 India has purchased military hardware worth 100 million dollars from Israel through third party. But, of late a number of Israeli arms suppliers including Tadiran, IAI, Rafael, Armament Development Authority, Future Technology, Elbit Computers, El-Op Industries and Rada Electronics have appointed representatives in India.

Israel is reported to have offered India the unmanned air vehicle (UAV) which is a force multiplier and can gather real-time intelligence data over the adversary's territory. The Indian Aeronautical Development Establishment is already getting the help of Tel Aviv based IAI in this regard.

Israel is keen on upgrading India's over 100 Mig-21s by updating radar, prolonging airframe life, overhauling engines, increasing fuel capacity, providing Martin Baker ejection seats and heads-up display.

Other areas in which Israeli technology is being sought by India include computers for T-55 and Vijyanta tanks, upgunning T-55 with British guns, conversion of 160 Centurian tanks into APCs and conversion of some old tanks into SP guns. Israeli help has also been offered to India in installing sensors and fire-and-gun control systems of MBT Arjun.

The main motivating force behind the enhanced Indo-Israeli cooperation are the 50,000 Jews of Indian origin who have migrated to Israel, leaving about 15,000 Jews behind Israel's consulate office in Bombay is said to be the focal point of Israeli intelligence, military and political activities.

Non-Muslim Indian expatriates in Middle East who hold high sensitive positions, do intelligence gathering for Israel, it was further learnt.

Indo-Israeli cooperation in nuclear field began in 1962 when Dr Bergman, the head of Israeli Nuclear Energy Commission, visited India. The same year two Indian nuclear scientists were invited to Israel and were given familiarisation tours of some of the Israel's nuclear installations. India carried out its nuclear explosion in April 1974 under the reported supervision of some Israeli scientists.

Since Israel is well-experienced in desert warfare Indians are keen to benefit from that experience because its main adversary, Pakistan, has a large desert area contiguous to India.

Recently Indian newspaper SANSAR SAMACHAR reported the visit of a 15-member Israeli military team to Rajasthan of particular interest was the Israeli team's visit to Pokhran where India exploded its nuclear bomb.

In last July the PLO leader Farooq Qadumi delivered to Pakistani foreign minister "some sensitive documents" pertaining to an Israeli plan to attack Pakistani nuclear facilities.

Now that New Delhi has upgraded its diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv to the level of ambassador, the Indo-Israeli collaboration is expected to acquire more deadly lethality, specially directed against Pakistan, the source added.

Editorial Opposes Sanctions Against Libya

BK1312121993 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 11 Dec 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Trade Sanctions Against Libya?"]

[Text] According to a press report, the State Bank of Pakistan has imposed restrictions on the import-export business with Libya, frozen payments to Libya for goods imported from there, and banned the transfer of funds and income obtained from the Libyan state or private sector organizations. This follows a UN resolution in this regard.

Libya has been a great friend of Pakistan. During the rule of the late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, in particular, Tripoli extended every possible assistance to Islamabad. Since then, Libya has done valuable work to promote trade and cultural relations with Pakistan. It is highly astonishing that the United Nations has adopted a resolution imposing trade sanctions against Libya in the wake of a dispute with the United States, and that Pakistan has been forced to impose trade sanctions against a fraternal Islamic country in order to acquire nominal aid from the United States and other Western countries. Libya has categorically denied involvement by its nationals in the Pan Am disaster, and has offered to allow the alleged suspects to stand trial in an impartial country in order to reach an understanding and compromise on the issue. The United States and its allies, however, are in no way ready to accept this. They want to punish Libya for its boldness.

Pakistan should, therefore, adopt a just stand that considers the entire background. It should strongly oppose this move to make Islamic countries a "scapegoat" and impose UN sanctions on them.

India's RAW Charged With Fomenting 'Insurgency'

BK1612093993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 Dec 93 pp 1, 10

[Text] Rawalpindi—The Indian intelligence agency, RAW, has mounted a two-pronged action in a stepped-up drive to foment insurgency in Sindh to destabilise Pakistan, according to well-informed sources.

In this task, it is being supported by the Indian Army by way of training agents in sabotage and subversion and their infiltration in the province, the sources confide.

According to these sources, the new RAW strategy is reminiscent of its earlier gameplan that it executed against the then East Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The agency seems to have picked up Sindh for subversion in view of not only its contiguity with India but also its desolate terrain that permits crossing of border easily, and the ethnic multiplicity of the province, the sources add.

The success of the RAW in this field can very well be imagined from the number of subversive actions that have taken place in Pakistan. Since 1987, over 150 incidents of sabotage have occurred, mostly in Sindh, causing death of over 500 persons and injuries to more than 2,000.

Over 4,000 people were reportedly trained in these camps from 1987 to 1991 alone in handling small arms and explosives and conducting raids and ambushes. Certain nationalist organisations in the province are being used to supply youth from amongst their cadres for training. On their return, a number of these terrorists have joined the decoit gangs operating in Sindh and Balochistan.

According to the sources, the bomb blasts of January 1993 in Hyderabad, March 1992 attack on Tezgam, sabotage of gas, oil and water pipelines in March 1992, breach in Naseer Canal through rocket-firing on its banks, and explosions in Moro, Nawabshah, Naushero Feroz and Kandiaro were the handiwork of the RAW-trained subversives to spread panic and alarm among the masses and cripple Pakistan economically.

RAW's new strategy comprises two elements: a well-orchestrated propaganda campaign for a psychological impact on the people of the province; and training of various elements in sabotage and subversive techniques and their infiltration in the province.

The sources point out that since sometime past, there has been a great spurt in hostile propaganda against Pakistan by the Indian media. The state-controlled Doordarshan and All India Radio have been constantly beaming out highly provocative programmes in Sindhi to incite the local population of the province.

The main thrust of this propaganda is to create a sense of economic and political deprivation among the Sindhis, spread a feeling of insecurity among the minorities in the province and fan hatred among the public against the Pakistan army.

The Indian Print media has also been involved in the execution of this plan. Apart from inspiring tendentious reports and commentaries in the mainstream newspapers and journals, the RAW has sponsored a whole lot of magazines exclusively devoted to dishing out venomous stuff against Pakistan. These are published in India and then flushed into the province through clandestine channels. Sindhi Desh, Sindh Rising, Sind Sujag, Sana, Sangat and Bagolay are some of these magazines that regularly find their way to the province. In addition, subversive writings are being churned out in profusion in India in the name of prominent Sindhi nationalists and pushed across the borders. RAW has also been clandestinely sponsoring the visits of the dissidents to India, where press conferences are set up for them to tell fabricated tales of atrocities, police excesses; and dismal economic conditions of the Sindhis.

The sources point out that since some time past, seminars and conferences are being increasingly arranged, both in India and abroad, to propagate the concept of Sindhu Desh, so much so, in a camouflaged move, conferences have been arranged in the names of such revered figures as Shah Latif Bhital to propagate this concept. Indeed, an All India Sindhi Sammela has become a regular feature, and even delegates from Sindh are roped in to participate in it and extensive media coverage is ensured for their hostile pronouncements both at home and abroad.

The sources confide that elaborate arrangements have been laid out to seduce the unsuspecting Sindhi youth, train and indoctrinate them and use them for subversion and terrorism inside Pakistan. As many as 36 such training camps are reported to have been established by RAW in collaboration with the Indian Army in Rajasthan and other parts of India close to the border.

The RAW-trained agents during interrogation have revealed that they have often been employed to obtain classified information on the movements of the Pakistan Army, its defensive positions and the communication infrastructure in the depth-localities. A large number of Hindu Sindhis living across the border have been trained in sabotage and subversion and will be infiltrated in Sindh, in case any hostilities break out, to the great disadvantage of the Pakistan Army, the detained agents have disclosed.

According to the sources, during its clean-up operation in Sindh the Pakistan army has nabbed a large number of RAW-trained infiltrators, besides wiping out the bulk of dacoit gangs. Even though flushing the entire area of the subversive elements is not so easy because of the vast terrain and sanctuaries available to them, the Army presence in Sindh, particularly in the interior, has helped neutralise substantially the RAW attempts to destabilise Sindh and consequently Pakistan.

The massive public support to the mainstream national parties in the October polls demonstrates unmistakably that the venomous propaganda of RAW has failed to make any inroads in the province, the sources add. However, they caution that there is a need to maintain constant vigil because India which virtually has lost the Kashmir battle, may retaliate in desperation in Sindh.

Article Views Kashmir Issue, U.S. Role

BK1312112293 Karachi DEFENCE JOURNAL in English Oct-Nov 93 pp 19-23

[By M. B. Naqvi: "US-India-Pakistan and the Swirl Over Kashmir"]

[Text] Clear signals are emanating from Washington about the urgency to generate some movement on Kashmir. The only thing official is the help the US is willing to extend to India and Pakistan to seek a solution to the intractable problem of Kashmir. It is chary of using the word mediation, though the same sort of provisos are attached to this help. The rest is speculation. The latter extends to a Camp David or an Oslo-type format.

Indo-Pakistan cold war is, however, older than the great east-west global confrontation. Kashmir became its chief symbol and substance over four decades ago. It is one of the hardest nuts to crack in the field of international conflict. Highest-level Anglo-American mediation failed as did the successive UN efforts at composing Indo-Pakistan differences on Kashmir. It is among the oldest deadlocks on the UN agenda. It has already caused three wars in 47 years and a fourth one can break out at any time; it is being postponed, mainly, by the US diplomacy from week to week. If no stable peace can be made by and between India and Pakistan, it is sure to take place despite America. Since that will cause unforeseeable forces to be released and to start countless eddies of unwanted consequences, it will be most unwelcome to the Americans. As the sole surviving superpower, the Americans feel they have to manage balances of power in Asia's populous sub-regions. It won't do at all to let South Asia go up in smoke and cause all manner of upsets .

It is all but certain that quite soon, the American mediation will soon take a more concrete shape. Since the success of Camp David technique has been so satisfying to the Americans, it is likely to be replicated. While the issues between Israel and Egypt seemed quite as troublesome and difficult as between India and Pakistan, essential difference needs to be noted. Americans and the Israelis could be on the same wavelength; their ultimate purposes in the region actually coincide. This seems to be applicable to India-US tie-up in South Asia, but there is also an element of doubt. All said and done the Indians and the Israelis are different. The Indians may yet prove mysterious to the occidental mind. One does not insist on that and is prepared to take Indians at their westernised best.

Although one is still loath to shed one's scepticism, it is possible to concede that mere scepticism is not an argument and that, if there are reasonable grounds to accept a statement alongwith some reasonably accepted lines, a really good try should be made. The reason one is reluctant to drop one's scepticism is not so much the difficulties involved in arriving at a settlement over disputes between India and Pakistan, particularly over Kashmir, as the fact that India is in transition to something very different from what it used to look. It is the inability of the feared new India to make rational calculation and judgements that feeds pessimistic vein.

Anyhow, it needs being asserted that two factors ar promoting a great deal of doubt: first public opinion in India is unlikely to permit any real give-and-take on Kashmir, based on the recognition of realities. Secondly, the vested interests and the communal situation in India being what they are the settlement over Kashmir is inherently difficult now—after a needless 40 years of discord and frequent strife. There are no uncertainties insofar as the US is concerned. Not that we can always oresee what the demands and requirements of American diplomacy in future would be. But the broad American objectives are clear. It wants to remain number one in military strength. It wishes to play the leadership role throughout the world, as the sole superpower. That translates, insofar as Asia is concerned, into a large supervisory role in trying to ensure reasonable balances of power in the vast and populous sub-regions of Asia. The US task could become virtually impossible, if a war breaks out. There is little we in Pakistan are to do about it, except to make clear note of its dimensions and direction of events. We should not ignore the economic dimension of international relations.

The US would certainly want its share in the trade and economic development of the various regions—naturally a lion's share. Along the way, we should also not ignore economic difficulties of the US: it is world's largest debtor, though its main creditors, apart from Germany (EC) and Japan, are the American multinationals that are flush with money. Which means that the American government frequently is as poor as any big third world country. But its nationals and its corporations can invest larger amounts than many governments of even the developed countries can. Some of these details are vital. American ability to implement a policy orientation should not be in doubt nor its ability to spend in pursuance of it, despite budget limitations.

Insofar as India is concerned, so many contradictory facts have to be noted. Let us begin with what pleases the Indian most: it is its ability to muddle through with the help of its democratic institutions. It has proven that it is capable of absorbing tremendous pressures and accommodating many secessionist sentiments. Like a Russian doll, it does come down to its original position after its bouts of wobbling. They can cite many instances, beginning with the DMK's (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's) phase of burning Indian flag and raising secessionist slogans to actually ruling down the province (Tamil Nadu) and be patriotic Indians. Several instances are quoted from India's north east. Some such thing seems to be in the works insofar as the Punjab is concerned. But where does this argument end? Should the rest of the world take it that all secessionist movements in India will, after suitable treatment through a judicious mixture of force and concessios, transform themselves into manageable entities working inside the Indian Constitution. In short would Kashmir be like Nagaland? One is not sure.

Discussing India is the treacherous ground. One can be misled in any direction, depending upon one's predilection to accept one theory or the other about India's assimilative culture. Also, being almost a subcontinent in itself, it is altogether too complex to cover adequately in a short article. The best course for us would be to state our prejudices about the current trends and proceed to draw what conclusions we can, for all they are worth. One starts with the hypothesis that the strongest force in India today is the various schools of Hindu revivalism. This bald statement is unlikely to be questioned so much as many Indians would question not the wisdom of identifying various other forces and their relative strengths operating in that country. The fact of the matter is that the kind of ideas that motivated the founding fathers who wrote India's constitution are now being exposed as a thin veneer that is coming off at critical points.

What lies beneath is a medley of old forces, tendencies, notions and values. The westernised middle class that now numbers about 10 million is modern mainly in terms of incomes, an appetite for consumption of modern goodies, a nodding acquaintance with modern ideas through its command of English language and the traditions left by the Indian National Congress leaders of pre-independence days. The point is that the inner realities of India's public life are now beginning to push against the outer surface and is demonstratively rendering the political part of what the Indian political leadership wrought in 1947 at variance with the inner reality. No doubt the traditional or old heritage of India is bewilderingly varied and complicated. It is not only the Hindutva of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] concept that is recognisable. The fearfully complex cluster of notions, values and traditions associated with the caste phenomenon is no less real. Nor can its demands be ignored. Indeed both the Hindutva and the caste phenomenon have to be taken together. Even these two are not enough to account for the entire range of Indian heritage. There is far more that has been contributed by hundreds and thousands of rishis [priests], munis [saints] and other savants. Also who can ignore the rich contribution that has been made by Islam and Muslims in the 600 years and more of dominating India's political, social and intellectual life.

Doubtless one has given a preliminary precedence to Hindutva. But that is not without recognising the importance of the caste and other religio-artistic inheritance of the long Hindu period of India's history. Relating all this to the current political trends is a tricky business. Many Indian commentators assure us that the BJP, with its Hindutva and other associates, has passed the peak and they have nowhere to go but down. It is, however, too early to make a judgement. One's own assessment, as noted, is that BJP's Hindutva is still on the upswing. Its essential quality, needless to say, is the envy and hatred of the Muslims who had committed the cardinal sin of ruling India for so long and having imposed its own values, ideas and customs.

One has necessarily to take note of the opponents of BJP who are anxious to defend the modern secular ideas as well as institutions of democracy. That is natural. For any modern mind can see that all revivalist schools are incapable of meeting the complex demands of the modern age; they can never sustain modern institutions, inescapable for a rich modern plural society. A political movement that draws its inspiration from the past, as Hindutva does, cannot confidently lead a highly varied society forward into the future. The more modern, or genuinely modern, elements in India are rightly becoming alarmed by the growth of Hindutva sentiments. But the point at issue is: can the ragtag coalition of communists, factions of National Front, lower caste champions like Mulaem Singh and several others including a few Gandhians successfully confront, counter and contain the ebullient force represented by the Rashtriya Swem Sevak Sangh's parivar. We are not too sanguine, though we are open to conviction. One may be doing grave injustice to India's secular-minded thinkers who would seem to be rather complacent and insufficiently appreciative of the dynamics of the Hindutva drive. Perhaps they are too conscious of the other realities in India in the midst of which they live while we are looking at it from a distance and concentrating on just the one phenomenon and its strength. Perhaps the Indian secular thinkers' optimism may have more to it than we allow for. Even so, the world cannot rely on old Indian defenders of secularism because they are on the defensive too much and others attacking them are being lionised .

Insufficiently dealt with as this subject is, we have to leave this particular debate about India as such at this stage and relate the Indian political life to the question of India-Pakistan relations and in particular to the Kashmir issue. Far too many secular politicians are weighed down by the fear that the Hindutva people will swallow them up which if they make any real concession on Kashmir. The Indo-Pakistan relations comprise a long litany of problems and disputes, no doubt overshadowed by the Kashmir dispute. Although what is far more important is the adversarial, indeed inimical, attitudes on both sides that in fact make the Kashmir dispute itself symptomatic. But it is a reasonable statement to make that should the governments of India and Pakistan be pursuaded to sign on a political settlement, based ostensibly on fair settlement of the Kashmir dispute, the chances are that the relationship can suddenly acquire a momentum of friendliness in which attractive programmes of cooperation can become possible. For, these relations are essentially ambivalent and they can sustain both orientations: they can either go on becoming good, better and better, or they can go on becoming worse until some kind of a smash-up occurs. There have been brief interludes of goodwill and friendliness among them during which popular expectations quickly soared. But as noted, they were interludes. Most of the time it is a profound mistrust of each other's intentions that dominates the thinking on both sides.

Unless the Americans do two things there is little chance that their current mediation would succeed. After all, it were the second world war victors, Clement Attlee and President Harry Truman, who first offered mediation and drew a blank in the late 1940s That can happen again. The one reason that most international efforts at mediation in Kashmir failed was that they had not been prepared advance to mould public opinion in India and Pakistan in the required direction for in; it is not the experts alone who can bring success [sentence as published]. No doubt the experts' role in hammering out a reasonably fair and workable solution to the Kashmir dispute (that gives something of substance to both sides) will be vital. But such a solution has to be sold. And specially now, when the governments in both countries are weak and under siege, groundwork of preparing public mind is a vital prerequisite. Indeed, the governments themselves may be under the illusion that once a settlement is made and presented in a blaze of international publicity, with the Americans superpower presiding, over the achievement, they might be home and dry. That may be altogether too risky. The governments can collapse. The desired solutions, worked out by experts, need to be introduced in essential outlines, and popularised, on the one hand, and the actual benefits from sorting out the issue between these two countries have to be detailed and underlined in terms that the common man in both countries can relate himself to, on the other. It is therefore of the utmost importance that solution should appear to give some thing of value to either side.

Insofar as possible solutions to the Kashmir problem are concerned, a list of what has been on the table cannot but help. Originally Pakistanis wanted the whole of Jammu and Kashmir state as a part of Pakistan in terms of the desired 1947 settlement of the British Indian Empire. Indians naturally claim that Kashmir is theirs by virtue of the Maharaja having used his well recognised option. Later on, after two wars, the Indians had offered one generic solution: it was to partition the state between India and Pakistan. In substance, it meant that India should keep what it has and Pakistan should keep what it has taken. While not accepting this Indian offer, Pakistan did go in much detail though in the end failed to agree on a precise formula for the state's division.

Our understanding that the Indians were willing to offer a portion of the Kashmir Valley—which is the real meaning of Kashmir insofar as Pakistanis are concerned—during the Swaran Singh-Bhutto talks. Indeed, according to one report, in the Sixth (Karachi) Round, an agreement had all but reached on the division of the Valley. The precise details cannot be relied upon but the essential feature is known: all areas east of Srinager-Jammu road were to remain with India while the areas to the west of that line were to go to Pakistan. What had not been agreed upon was the disposal of the city of Srinager. Indians were in principle willing to let go parts of Srinager but wanted to retain some parts, especially its cantonment areas, that were thought to be vital for securing its lines of communication to Leh in Ladakh. Pakistanis would settle for nothing less than the whole of Srinager. A minor detail was that although the Srinager-Jammu road was the main dividing line, that road was itself to remain in India and that too had to be made defensible in the sense that all nearby areas which dominated the road should also go to India whatever that may imply or involve.

That was the formula's first version. Then came the 1971 war and Pakistan's military defeat in it. The Indian attitude hardened and its previous flexibilty in Kashmir shrank. Immediately after the war it insisted on abolishing the old Ceasefire Line of 1949 and began to put emphasis on Line Of Actual Control (LOAC). The new formula for permanent settlement in Kashmir was converting the LOAC into international frontier and making it soft. Which meant that all areas west of LOAC would be Pakistan and people of the old Jammu & Kashmir territories would be Pakistanis while on the other side of the LOAC the territory and people will be Indian, though both the peoples will be free to travel between the two areas on respective Pakistani and Indian passports and engage in free border trade. Men like Kuldip Nayer have embellished it with Trieste-like characteristics. But the essence of the Indian notion remains converting the LOAC into international frontier between India and Pakistan.

What the American experts are likely to suggest, perhaps sotto voce, is not immediately clear. There has been a very brief and ambiguous report of a joint American-Russian task force that has recommended some ideas for a settlement. These seemed suspiciously like combining two separate notions: it seems to be an effort to go beyond India's post-Simla Agreement offer in the general direction of what Swaran Singh was offering to Bhutto with some of the characteristics and flavour of what has come to be known as the Third Option (independence of mainly the Valley). Unless the full formula is available, it is hard to give an opinion whether (a) it will be acceptable to India and Pakistan (b) it shall be acceptable by the Kashmiris themselves and (c) whether it can stick on the ground. The conditions that a workable settlement should fulfil is a large subject but we would like to give a few pointers.

The methodology of going back to any past formula is wrong. It is not a static world. What might have worked out in the 1940s or 50s would not necessarily do so now. In recent years after remaining virtually dormant for decades, the Kashmiris are up and doing: a sort of Intifada, only more violent to the point of insurgency, has been going on in the Valley since January, 1991. Many thousands of Kashmiris and hundreds of Indian security forces have died in what is both political and physical combat. After so much blood has been spilt, it is unrealistic to talk of any formula that may have been discussed in the past. Facts have to be faced as thay are. Now, no settlement made by Indians and Pakistan, with or without foreign aid, can work if the Kashmiris do not like it. One of the facts of the present situation is a politics of confrontation while no settlement will work if the Kashmiris do not like it. Ideally what will work would require one determinant: the Kashmiris should have participated in its working out. But the harshest fact of life is that it is not feasible to associate all the bewildering variety of Kashmiris organisations in evolving a settlement. And yet the solution that has to be worked out should have their enthusiastic support, though it has to be evolved basically by Indians and Pakistan, with good samaritans (Americans) poking in the ribs. It has to meet the requirements posed by Kashmiri aspirations and preferences.

As we have no blue print to sell beyond emphasising the importance of these requirements that Kashmiri opinion has to be consulted and its wishes need to be kept in view while hammering out a solution. Since we have spent so much space on the state of political play in India—we find it unnecessary to discuss the admittedly unstable politics of Pakistan for the sufficient reason that people of Pakistan will surely go along with any sollution that is supported by Kashmiris; it is that we should remember the additional requirement about India. India should be able to swallow the concession it has necessarily to make to Pakistan and Kashmiris, both of whom are predominently Muslims. It should look as if India is getting something in return. Actually much the same applies to Pakistan certainly for the government: what would constitute a settlement may now be a much smaller territory to be vacated by Indians than what was originally desired and it may also involve a stiff price to be paid for that settlement, perhaps to India. In order that Pakistan swallows this, that settlement has to embody something that would be an adequate recompense to Pakistan. As for Kashmiris, the substance of what they have desired all along, Azadi, has to be conceded to them.

Finally a word about Pakistan. Although it began with an all-or-nothing attitude on Kashmir and formally it remains their position—Islamabad still wants Kashmir state to accede either to India or to Pakistan—vicissitudes of history have affected the thinking in a profound manner. In the 1960s Bhutto was willing to discuss a formula of settlement that would divide not only Kashmir but also the Valley. After 1971 war, Bhutto himself gave Indians to understand that, whether or not he signs on the dotted lines insofar as Kashmir is concerned, he is willing to postpone a settlement to future generations and live with the facts on the ground. Now, two decades later, PM Nawaz Sharif told millions of BBC listeners that Pakistan was willing to envisage the Third Option, although he later ate his words. It is legitimate to conclude that having been deprived of the Kashmir Valley, it would plump for anything that would (a) seem to be a settlement that would give something to Pakistan (b) appears to satisfy Kashmiris and (c) looks like being workable. In short, it has to be something more than what the Indians have been offering, viz converting the LOAC into an international border. The area of Pakistan's interest is the Kashmir Valley and certain areas of Jammu while much of Jammu and Ladakh simply do not interest Pakistan or Pakistanis. In short, Pakistan would expect some concessions in the Valley that seems to accord with the Kashmiris' own preferences.

Bhutto Attends Conclusion of Army Exercises

BK1512150093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, today witnessed the finale and decisive phase of the ongoing Army exercises al-Khalid. On arrival, she was received by the chief of the Army staff, General Abdul Waheed, and the corps commander, Lieutenant General Jahangir Karamat. The prime minister was accompanied by the defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani. After the briefing, she visited the forward areas and saw the exercises. As part of the joint land-air strategy, the corps attack was spearheaded by tanks, operating as integrated armed teams, supported by attack helicopters and antitank guided weapons. The prime minister witnessed the destruction of the enemy in one segment of the battlefield. The Air Force aircraft, attack helicopters, tanks, and antitank weapons combined their power in live firing attacks. Delegates from Iran and Turkey were later introduced to the prime minister.